The Final Generation and the Fourth Angel

By Ron Spear

The Final Generation
and
The Fourth Angel

by

Ron Spear

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Contents

Preface 5
Foreword 7
Introduction
The Great Waymarks of Adventism 11
The Landmarks—Pillars: Attempts at Removal 11
Rebellion Against The Testimony Of Jesus 13
Attempts to Change 14
Attempts to Change Unsuccessful 15
Seems About to Fall 17
Chapter One
Roots and Reasons for a Final Generation 19
Perfect Obedience Required 20
The Vindication of God 22
Christ's Character Perfectly Reproduced 24
Chapter Two
God's Efforts to Develop His Final Generation 25
God's End-Time Messages 25
Salvational Truths 26
The Testimony of Jesus 27
Righteous By Faith 27
Christ's Active Obedience In Us 28
Every Provision Made 29
Chapter Three
Efforts to Prevent the Formation of the Final Generation 31
Laodicean Condition Delay 31
Latter Rain Rejection Delay 31
Insubordination Delay of "Many Years" 32
Doctrinal Blindness 33
"Only Believe" 34
Error Mixed With Truth 35
The New Theology 36
Chapter Four
Where We Are Today 39
Nothing New Under the Sun 40
Spiritual Blindness 42
The Earth Will Be Lightened 44
Chapter Five
The Path Before Us 47
Phase One of the Shaking of Adventism—False Doctrines 49
Phase One of the Shaking of Adventism—Straight Testimony 52
Phase Three of the Shaking of Adventism—Persecution 54
By Every Word 55
The Sealing 57
The Latter Rain 60

The Blotting Out Of Sin 65
Annulled Pardons 66
Chapter Six
The Loud Cry of the Fourth Angel 69
Temple Cleansed Twice 69
One Final Threefold Call 70
God Will Take the Reins 71
Those Not Insensible to Light 73
Casting Off Human Restrictions 74
Light Through Unexpected Sources 76
Taking Our Crowns 77
God Alone Glorified 78
Gospel Commission Completed 80
Probation Closes 81
The Hundred and Forty-four Thousand 83
Chapter Seven
Summary and Conclusions 97
Generations Disappointed 97
Summary and Conclusions 99
What We Must Do Now 99
Strive to Be Among the Final Generation 104
Appendix A
The Last Generation 107
Forgiveness and Cleansing 108
Rebellion in Heaven 110
Satan's Demonstration 111
Lucifer 112
God's Demonstration 114
Job's Test
The Last Generation 117
God's Government on Trial 118
The Last Generation 119
The 144,000 120
Appendix B
The Great Tragedy of QOD 123
Two Main Differences 123
Manifesto of the New Theology 124
Much Truth With Deadly Error 126
The Strongest Delusion 130
New Annotated Edition of QOD 132
Spiritual Eyesalve Needed 132
Appendix C
The Cleansing of the Sanctuary* 139
In the Sanctuary 139
Cleansing Soul Temples 141
Weighed In the Balances 152

Preface

THIS BOOK will strike a resounding and sympathetic chord for readers who love and defend the eternal, precious truths God has graciously given to His Remnant Church.

With words of love and obviously deep concern for God's people as they venture into the final phases of what we are warned will be fearsome end-time trials for our beloved church, Elder Spear powerfully memorializes and vindicates for our spiritual advancement the unassailable heaven-sent warnings of vital importance to The Final Generation.

He then points us to the most trustworthy words of counsel with which we have been blessed from our two faithful sources—the Scriptures and The Spirit of Prophecy. His appeals for awareness of our rebellious condition as a people will, hopefully, awake His sleeping saints to the hopelessness of our present condition. May God help us!

It has been my pleasure to have known this man of vision for almost 20 years. During these years, he and his wife Betty, have occasionally been guests of my wife Virginia and I, in our home. We have enjoyed many hours of earnest discussion and prayer together. His wisdom and learning are legend. His habit of rising in the first hours each morning to study has been his bulwark, as I found when, on one of his visits to our home, I discovered why a study light was burning brightly outside of his room at 4:00 AM. One thing I know is certain, He loves the Saviour and he loves His church!

This is Elder Spear's twentieth book. Dear reader, as you embark on your adventure through what I believe is his most inspiring work, prepare to be "bathed" in pure, unadulterated Adventism and a sweeping vindication of God and His truth and to learn why the vital loud cry message of the fourth angel of Revelation 18 must be sounded and why the Sanctuary message is the path to Christ and the final fulfillment of His Plan of Redemption.

You will learn why God's faithful people "sigh and cry between the porch and the altar;" how vitally important it is in this awesome "day of atonement" in which we live, to understand that a great cleansing work must be done now in the soul temples of God's people; to realize that we are today, in this final hour, placed on the balances on

one side of which is seen the character of Christ and on the other side our present wretched characters that can and must be perfected, through His power, after His flawless pattern, as He has promised; to search our hearts deeply, to confess and fully forsake every sin; finish God's precious work and prepare for the final judgment of God.

I believe everyone who loves His appearing will appreciate *The Final Generation and The Fourth Angel*. May our Wonderful, loving God bless and purify His church soon, very soon, is my sincere prayer, in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

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Foreword

THIS BOOK you hold in your hands is the latest to come from the pen of Elder Ron Spear. In his 80 plus years of life, he has learned to distill theological concepts down to where even a very simple person can easily understand them. He actually incorporates very little of his own opinion in his books. He relies very heavily on the writings of our prophet, Ellen G. White and the Bible.

I have never met anyone who has immersed himself so completely into what our God has shared with us in these last days. We have the privilege of benefiting from his years of extensive study and research into the realms of end times prophecies. This book traces not only where we are, but also where we are going, and what Satan has done to try to thwart us along the way.

We are told that:

> We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history. *Selected Messages*, book 3, 162.

If that is true, then this book is an invaluable resource that points us directly and succinctly to the ways God has directed our people. As the prophets of old were rarely appreciated during their lifetimes, so now, Ellen White, even though she has been separated from us by well over 80 years, is not highly valued for the counsel given her of God.

In these final and tumultuous days, it should be very comforting to us that there are a few stalwarts that are willing to stand, a few "Calebs," that will face the multitudes undauntingly:

> Caleb's have been greatly needed in different periods of the history of our work. Today we need men of thorough fidelity, men who follow the Lord fully, men who are not disposed to be silent when they ought to speak, who are as true as steel to principle, who do not seek to make a pretentious show, but who walk humbly with God, patient, kind, obliging, courteous men, who understand that the science of prayer is to exercise faith and show works that will tell to the glory of God and the good of His people. . . . *The Seventh-day*

Adventist Bible Commentary: Ellen G. White Comments, vol. 1, 1113.

This book has been prepared, not for the glory of its writer but because of the writer's earnest interest in the souls of the Seventh-day Adventist people. I can personally attest to Elder Spears anxious concern for his "brethren", from the General Conference president, to the humblest layman. The goal and concern of his life, besides making his own calling and election sure, is to be used of God to bring the light to as many as will receive it.

We should realize, as brother Spear does, that God has already told us what Satan's last deception to our people will be:

> The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony. The enemy has made his masterly efforts to unsettle the faith of our own people in the Testimonies. . . . This is just as Satan designed it should be, and those who have been preparing the way for the people to pay no heed to the warnings and reproofs of the Testimonies of the Spirit of God will see that a tide of errors of all kinds will spring into life. It is Satan's plan to weaken the faith of God's people in the Testimonies. Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition." *Last Day Events,* 177–178.

Jesus Himself said that He told us these things before, not just so that we would be aware, but that we might believe!

> And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe. John 14:29.

O that we might believe what Jesus has said! O that we might accept the words of the prophets that God has risen up in our behalf. Let us not be guilty of the very sins that the Jews were, in not accepting the messages of warning, reproof and counsel that God has been pleased to give us for these very times!

This book has been set forth to make sure no one misunderstands where we are at and what our future holds.

> And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. Habakkuk 2:2.

Joe Olson
Hope International

INTRODUCTION
The Great Waymarks of Adventism

IN THIS AWESOME crisis hour in which we see the fulfilling of the great prophecies of Daniel and Revelation, we also see the fulfillment of predictions by our last-day prophet, Ellen White, that there would be attempts to remove the great landmarks that separate us from the churches of Babylon.

What are some of these great landmarks or pillars of our faith which Satan attempts to remove?—They are the sanctuary truth with its day of atonement cleansing, and the three angels' messages swelling into the loud cry of the fourth angel of Revelation 18. In these wonderful messages, there is now demonstrated a great ignorance by our people because they are not taught adequately in our schools and colleges, and it is not emphasized in our ministerial training in our seminaries. Therefore, the landmarks are being preached very little in our churches. What a tragedy we have created!

The Landmarks—Pillars: Attempts at Removal

Listen to God speak through His prophet to us in this crisis hour:

> Pretenders will arise with theories that have no foundation in the Word of God. We are to hold aloft the banner bearing the inscription, The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. We are to hold the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end. Let no one attempt to dilute truth with a mixture of sophistry. Let no one attempt to tear down the foundation of our faith, or to spoil the pattern by bringing into the web threads of human devising. *This Day With God*, 324.

> After the truth has been proclaimed as a witness to all nations, at a time when every conceivable power of evil is set in operation, when minds are confused by the many voices crying, "Lo, here is Christ," "Lo, He is there," "This is truth," "I have a message from God," "He has sent me with great light," and there is a removing of the landmarks, and an at-

> tempt to tear down the pillars of our faith—then a more decided effort is made to exalt the false sabbath, and to cast contempt upon God Himself by supplanting the day He has blessed and sanctified. *Selected Messages*, book 3, 406.

What we must now see is an attempt by Satan in removing the landmarks and the pillars of our faith to thus capture many of our leaders, pastors, and laity, and to bring them into his cause, believing, living, and preaching his gospel— "saved" in sin.

In Satan's attempt to remove the landmarks, he has successfully taught a generation of many pastors and leaders a great deception; that Ellen White was a very nice lady who helped to establish with the pioneers, the church in the 19th century, but now, in the 21st century, many of her writings are not relevant. Evidently, it is believed that our many PhD's have greater wisdom and are now able to guide our institutions and the world-work:

> Satan is . . . constantly pressing in the spurious—to lead away from the truth. The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony.
>
> There will be a hatred kindled against the testimonies which is satanic. The workings of Satan will be to unsettle the faith of the churches in them, for this reason: Satan cannot have so clear a track to bring in his deceptions and bind up souls in his delusions if the warnings and reproofs and counsels of the Spirit of God are heeded. Ibid., book 1, 48. See also *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 672–684.

But what is the end product of our supposed human wisdom?

- Some of our institutions are near bankruptcy.
- The Boston Medical Center suffered a loss of about 50 million dollars of God's money.
- A confession on the General Conference web site in October 2003 that our schools are now considered secular in their curriculums.

- Beginning in the 70's till 2003, after factoring in inflation, there has been about a 70 percent decline per capita in return of the sacred tithe.

Rebellion Against The Testimony Of Jesus

Our retreating toward Egypt is documented by our rejection of Christ's leadership as delineated in the Testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of Prophecy. We have lowered the lifestyle standards of righteousness to meet the practices and demands of our people in worldliness in the following 14 areas:

1.—Divorce and remarriage;
2.—Music. See *Selected Messages*, book 2, 35–37;
3.—Recreation, competitive sports;
4.—Dress styles; mixed swimming;
5.—Theater going;
6.—Jewelry, sacrificial living;
7.—Sabbathkeeping according to Isaiah 58:13–14;
8.—Watching movies and sports (now on television and videos);
9.—Reverence in God's sanctuary;
10.—Importance of the Spirit of Prophecy;
11.—Health reform, flesh eating, etc.;
12.—Diversions, now video games and the internet;
13.—Coffee drinking and cola beverages;
14.—Pulpit preaching, now saved in sinning, downplaying of sanctification.

> Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan. If doubts and unbelief are cherished, the faithful ministers will be removed from the people who think they know so much. "If thou hadst known," said Christ, "even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes." *Testimonies to Ministers*, 409–410.

Along with these fourteen points of diversion from the counsels of God through His prophet Ellen White regarding lifestyle, we must add six other areas of our disobedience which are responsible for our apostasy.

We are in rebellion as demonstrated by our disobedience to Christ's plans in:

1. —Our educational system—promoting competitive sports, drama, literature of the world, immodest dress, and so on;
2. —Our health care system—neglect of medical missionary work, simple remedies, sanitariums, treatment rooms, vegetarian restaurants, and so on;
3. —Publishing houses—the way they operate in promoting a plethora of story books and non-Adventist authors and musicians, in comparison to serious message and Spirit of Prophecy publications;
4. —Evangelism to the world—baptizing with little regard to the conversion experience;
5. —The three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6–12—preaching obedience to God while in open rebellion to His directives—"saved" in sin;
6. —Neglecting the sanctuary message and its importance to the three angels' messages—perfection of character in God's final generation as an essential part of the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary.

These are six areas in which we have largely divorced ourselves from the directions God has given through His testimony to the remnant church—the Testimony of Jesus.

Attempts to Change

Let us in this introduction to this important book, read the following inspired statements in order that we may better understand some of the enormity of our apostasy—our rebellion—how men have attempted to deface the integrity of our landmarks—the pillars of our faith—by Satan's devisings—his gospel:

> In the future, deception of every kind is to arise, and we want solid ground for our feet. We want solid pillars for the building. Not one pin is to be removed from that which the Lord has established. The enemy will bring in false theories, such as the doctrine that there is no sanctuary. This is one of the points on which there will be a departing from the faith. Where shall we find safety unless it be in the truths that the Lord has been giving for the last fifty years?

Satan is striving continually to bring in fanciful suppositions in regard to the sanctuary, degrading the wonderful representations of God and the ministry of Christ for our salvation into something that suits the carnal mind. He removes its presiding power from the hearts of believers, and supplies its place with fantastic theories invented to make void the truths of the atonement, and destroy our confidence in the doctrines which we have held sacred since the third angel's message was first given. Thus he would rob us of our faith in the very message that has made us a separate people, and has given character and power to our work.

I know that the sanctuary question stands in righteousness and truth, just as we have held it for so many years. It is the enemy that leads minds off on sidetracks. He is pleased when those who know the truth become engrossed in collecting scriptures to pile around erroneous theories, which have no foundation in truth. The scriptures thus used are misapplied; they were not given to substantiate error, but to strengthen truth. *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, 53–54.

Attempts to Change Unsuccessful

Our faith in reference to the messages of the first, second, and third angels was correct. The great waymarks we have passed are immovable. Although the hosts of hell may try to tear them from their foundation, and triumph in the thought that they have succeeded, yet *they do not succeed. These pillars of truth stand firm as the eternal hills, unmoved by all the efforts of men combined with those of Satan and his host*. We can learn much, and should be constantly searching the Scriptures to see if these things are so. God's people are now to have their eyes fixed on the heavenly sanctuary, where the final ministration of our great High Priest in the work of the judgment is going forward—where He is interceding for His people. *Review and Herald*, November 27, 1883.

Messages of every order and kind have been urged upon

Seventh-day Adventists, to take the place of the truth which, point by point, has been sought out by prayerful study, and testified to by the miracle-working power of the Lord. But the waymarks which have made us what we are, are to be preserved, and they will be preserved, as God has signified through His word and the testimony of His Spirit. He calls upon us to hold firmly, with the grip of faith, to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority. *Special Testimonies*, Series B, No. 2, 59.

As a people, we are to stand firm on the platform of eternal truth that has withstood test and trial. We are to hold to the sure pillars of our faith. The principles of truth that God has revealed to us are our only true foundation. They have made us what we are. The lapse of time has not lessened their value. It is the constant effort of the enemy to remove these truths from their setting, and to put in their place spurious theories. He will bring in everything that he possibly can to carry out his deceptive designs. But the Lord will raise up men of keen perception, who will give these truths their proper place in the plan of God. *Selected Messages*, book 1, 201.

No line of truth that has made the Seventh-day Adventist people what they are, is to be weakened. We have the old landmarks of truth, experience, and duty, and we are to stand firmly in defense of our principles, in full view of the world. *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 17.

I saw a company who stood well guarded and firm, giving no countenance to those who would unsettle the established faith of the body. God looked upon them with approbation. I was shown three steps—the first, second, and third angels' messages. Said my accompanying angel, "Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages. The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received." I was again brought down through these messages, and saw how dearly the people of God had

purchased their experience. It had been obtained through much suffering and severe conflict. God had led them along step by step, until He had placed them upon a solid, immovable platform. *Counsels to Writers and Editors,* 53.

Seems About to Fall

The Church seems about to fall, but it will not fall (see *Selected Messages*, book 2, 380). Why?—The answer will be found in the following inspired statements of our prophet**:**

We are made sad as we see in many places so much left undone that should be done. But the Lord will use in the accomplishment of His work means that we do not now see. He will raise up from among the common people, men and women to do His work, even as of old He called fishermen to be His disciples. There will soon be an awakening that will surprise many. Those who do not realize the necessity of what is to be done, will be passed by, and the heavenly messengers will work with those who are called the common people, fitting them to carry the truth to many places. Now is the time for us to awake and do what we can. *Loma Linda Messages*, 83.

The Lord must be given an opportunity to show men their duty and to work upon their minds. No one is to bind himself to serve for a term of years under the direction of one group of men or in one specified branch of the Master's work, for the Lord Himself will call men, as of old He called the humble fishermen, and will Himself give them instruction regarding their field of labor and the methods they should follow. He will call men from the plow and from other occupations, to give the last note of warning to perishing souls. There are many ways, and the Great Teacher will open the understanding of these workers, enabling them to see wondrous things in His word. *Counsels on Health*, 395.

Chapter One

Roots and Reasons For a Final Generation

OCTOBER 22, 1844, was the momentous end of the great time prophecy of the 2300 days of Daniel 8:14. William Miller, and his associate preachers, had focused the attention of the world upon this date as the day in which Christ would return to this earth. As we now know, the date was correct, but the event was in error:

> And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed. Daniel 8:14.

This date in history is now referred to as the great disappointment. The vast majority of disappointed believers lost their faith. Only about 50 individuals remained strong in their belief that the Holy Spirit had led in the prophetic establishment of October 22, 1844 as the date when the sanctuary would be cleansed. It was only with much study and prayer that it was discovered that the sanctuary to be cleansed was the Heavenly sanctuary rather than this earth.

A thorough study of the Old Testament sanctuary service led to the revealing that its yearly day of atonement cleansing foreshadowed a final cleansing of the Heavenly sanctuary with Christ officiating as its High Priest. It was also determined that the primary purpose of the Day of Atonement services in the earthly sanctuary was the spiritual cleansing of the people. To be cleansed, each individual had to be in a state of repentance for all sins of the past, and of victory over all present temptations. Those who did not properly participate in the cleansing of the sanctuary service were cut off from the children of Israel. The cleansing of the earthly sanctuary service was a most solemn event. Proper participation in it was literally a matter of life and death.

Further study by the pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church determined that the primary purpose of the cleansing of the Heavenly sanctuary is also the cleansing of God's people on earth. See *Our*

Greatest Need, by Ron Spear. Proper participation in this temple cleansing is a matter of eternal life or eternal death. The whole purpose of the plan of salvation is to save people not only from the guilt of sin, but also from sinning. The great Day of Atonement of the heavenly sanctuary which began in 1844 is the documentation of, and demonstration of, that accomplishment. It will put on display a final generation who have allowed Christ to cleanse them not only from the guilt of, but also the power and dominion of, sin in their lives. The purpose of Christ's heavenly ministry has been to administer pardoning, enabling, and transforming grace to His followers on earth to enable them to have complete victory over all known sin or rebellion in their lives.

Perfect Obedience Required

We, individually, need to experience perfect obedience to God's will if we are ever to regain heaven:

> Heaven can never be gained by an imperfect obedience; for this would place all heaven in jeopardy, and make possible a second rebellion. *Signs of the Times*, December 30, 1889.

Christ came to this earth in our fallen sinful nature to demonstrate that fallen man can indeed obey God's law. His life of perfect obedience, also vindicated God's law:

> Christ came to vindicate the sacred claims of the law. He came to live a life of obedience to its requirements and thus prove the falsity of the charge made by Satan that it is impossible for man to keep the law of God. As a man He met temptation and overcame in the strength given Him from God. As He went about doing good, healing all who were afflicted by Satan, He made plain to men the character of God's law and the nature of His service. His life testifies that it is possible for us also to obey the law of God. *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 207–208.

Christ's glory—His character—is revealed in His law and also in the perfected characters of His saints:

> The glory of Christ is revealed in the law, which is a transcript of His character, and His transforming efficacy is

felt upon the soul until men become changed to His likeness. They are made partakers of the divine nature, and grow more and more like their Saviour, advancing step by step in conformity to the will of God, till they reach perfection. *God's Amazing Grace*, 80.

Just as God sent Christ to the world to reveal His character, so Christ sends transformed men and women to also reveal that same character:

Jesus has helped the whole world to an intelligent knowledge of His divine mission and work. He came to represent the character of the Father to our world, and as we study the life, the words, and works of Jesus Christ, we are helped in every way in the education of obedience to God; and as we copy the example He has given us, we are living epistles known and read of all men. We are the living human agencies to represent in character Jesus Christ to the world.

We are ever to be thankful that Jesus has proved to us by actual facts that man can keep the commandments of God, giving contradiction to Satan's falsehood that man cannot keep them. The Great Teacher came to our world to stand at the head of humanity, to thus elevate and sanctify humanity by His holy obedience to all of God's requirements showing it is possible to obey all the commandments of God. He has demonstrated that a lifelong obedience is possible. Thus He gives men to the world, as the Father gave the Son, to exemplify in their life the life of Jesus Christ. *Lift Him Up*, 169.

Christ bruised the head of Satan by His life of perfect obedience to His Father. He also gives a fatal wound to Satan through the fully obedient lives of His saints:

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Genesis 3:15.

Christ was the special One who should bruise the head of the serpent; but the prophecy also includes all those who shall overcome the enemy by the blood of the Lamb, and by

the word of their testimony. . . . Those who truly unite with Christ will be found doing the same work that Christ did while on the earth—they will be found magnifying the law and making it honorable. . . .Whenever a soul takes a decided stand for truth, the head of the serpent is bruised by the seed of the woman. . . . When the advocates of truth reveal the efficiency of truth in their life and character, a blow is struck against the kingdom of Satan. *Youth's Instructor*, October 11, 1894.

The Vindication of God

The honor of God—the vindication of His character—is involved in the perfection of the characters of His people:

> Of the Spirit Jesus said, "He shall glorify Me." The Saviour came to glorify the Father by the demonstration of His love; so the Spirit was to glorify Christ by revealing His grace to the world. The very image of God is to be reproduced in humanity. The honor of God, the honor of Christ, is involved in the perfection of the character of His people. *The Desire of Ages*, 671.

Yes, both God and the Saints are benefited by their faithful and obedient service to Him. The obedience of His commandments by His people exalts God before the world:

> The blessings of God's covenant are mutual. . . . God accepts those who will work for His name's glory, to make His name a praise in a world of apostasy and idolatry. He will be exalted by His commandment-keeping people that He may make them "high above all nations which he hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honour." Deuteronomy 26:19. *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, 118.

One of the major issues of the great controversy is Satan's claim that God's laws—a reflection of His character—cannot be obeyed or reflected in the lives of His creatures—specifically the sons and daughters of fallen Adam. Satan's claims will be proved to the whole universe to be totally false as God's remnant people reflect God's character and His laws in their own Christlike characters:

> Christ came to the world to counteract Satan's falsehood that God had made a law which men could not keep. Taking humanity upon Himself, He came to this earth, and by a life of obedience showed that God has not made a law that man cannot keep. He showed that it is possible for man perfectly to obey the law. Those who accept Christ as their Saviour, becoming partakers of His divine nature, are enabled to follow His example, living in obedience to every precept of the law. Through the merits of Christ, man is to show by his obedience that he could be trusted in heaven, that he would not rebel. *The Faith I Live By*, 114.

> The fact that the law is holy, just, and good is to be testified before all nations, tongues, and peoples, to worlds unfallen, to angels, seraphim, and cherubim. The principles of the law of God were wrought out in the character of Jesus Christ, and he who cooperates with Christ, becoming a partaker of the divine nature, will develop the divine character, and become an illustration of the divine law. Christ in the heart will bring the whole man, soul, body, and spirit into captivity to the obedience of righteousness. Christ's true followers will be in conformity to the mind and will and character of God, and *the far-reaching principles of the law will be demonstrated in humanity*. *Review and Herald*, March 9, 1897. All emphases supplied unless otherwise noted.

Yes, God needs a full and final display of His love, His character, and His laws. Not a display of what man can do, but *a display of what God can do* in transforming fallen, but fully surrendered men and women.

We are promised that eventually such a display will be manifest in the lives of His church members when they demonstrate the transforming power of Christ to save man *from* sin, not in sin:

> The church is the depositary of the wealth of the riches of the grace of Christ, and through the church eventually will be made manifest the final and full display of the love of God to the world that is to be lightened with its glory. The prayer of Christ that His church may be one as He was one

with His Father will finally be answered. The rich dowry of the Holy Spirit will be given, and through its constant supply to the people of God they will become witnesses in the world of the power of God unto salvation. *Testimonies to Ministers*, 50.

Christ's Character Perfectly Reproduced

When the character of Christ is perfectly reproduced in His final generation, then the character of God and His laws will be fully vindicated. The hour of His judgment can then be brought to a close, the sanctuary will be finally cleansed, and Christ can come to take His people home:

> "When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come." Mark 4:29. Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, *then* He will come to claim them as His own. *Christ's Object Lessons*, 69.

Thus we see that the concept of a final victorious generation of saints, helping to vindicate God's character, laws, and government, and thus helping to bring a successful conclusion to the great controversy, is taught by Inspiration. Such a full and final display is not only helpful but essential to God's victory over Satan. The ability of God's plan of salvation to transform sinful man into His character must be demonstrated to the universe before it will be safe to eradicate sin and sinners.

Chapter Two

God's Efforts to Develop His Final Generation

EVER SINCE 1844, the Lord has been working with His saints on earth to enable them to be His fully victorious final generation which is an essential component of the great antitypical day of atonement, the cleansing of His Sanctuary. See chapter 7, "Purposes of the Sanctuary," in the book *Our Greatest Need* by Ron Spear. Essential to the success of developing the final generation is that of Christ's example of victorious living in man's fallen sinful nature and His High Priestly ministry of providing enabling and transforming, as well as, pardoning grace. See *Touched With Our Feelings*, by J. R. Zurcher, and *Golden Links of Truth*, by Vernon Sparks for in-depth discussion of these subjects.

God's End-Time Messages

Christ has also given a special end-time message known as the three angels' messages:

> And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the

> presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. Revelation 14:6–12.

Salvational Truths

These messages of the three angels encapsulate the salvational truths of the Bible. As these messages are internalized in the lives of Christ's followers, they in turn are qualified to share these salvational messages with the rest of the world. In reality, the three angels flying in the midst of heaven and crying with a loud voice, are symbols of God's people on earth giving His last message of mercy to mankind. As individuals understand, accept, and experience the salvational truths of the three angels' messages, they, as they share with the world, become a part of those three angels:

> Christ is coming the second time, with power unto salvation. To prepare human beings for this event, He has sent the first, second, and third angels' messages. These angels represent those who receive the truth, and with power open the gospel to the world. *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary: Ellen G. White Comments*, vol. 7, 978–979.

These messages include the everlasting gospel which must be given to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people before the end can come. See *Rebellion* by Ron Spear for in-depth discussion of the first angel's message. The three angels' message is a call to worship and fully obey the Creator God. It is a call to keep Holy the seventh day of the week as established by the Creator in the Garden of Eden. It contains a strong warning against the worship of the beast power or the receiving of his mark. These messages are designed to expose, and to successfully confront, the errors and deceptions of Satan in the closing hours of the great controversy.

The Testimony of Jesus

One of the identifying marks of God's remnant church is that they have the Testimony of Jesus which is the Spirit of prophecy. See Revelation 12:17; 19:10. This gift of the Spirit has been manifested in God's remnant church through the near 70 year ministry of Ellen G. White. One of the main purposes of the Spirit of prophecy has been to clarify the truths of the Scriptures. Whenever our founding fathers, in the study of the Scriptures, came to an impasse as to the doctrine under study, God revealed the clarifying truth through His messenger Ellen White. This gift of the Spirit of prophecy has been instrumental in providing Seventh-day Adventists with a clear understanding of the Bible truths such as the sanctity of the Saturday Sabbath, the fallen human nature of Christ and His life of victory over sin as an example for His followers, and the great day of atonement with the cleansing of the Heavenly sanctuary associated with a purified final generation on earth.

This gift of prophecy has been likened to the use of a telescope in the study of the starry heavens. The telescope provides more clearness and detail. It brings into view many glorious objects not previously seen, but which were always there. Its use does not replace the starry heavens, but significantly helps to know and understand more clearly that which is contained there.

This gift of prophecy has also been likened to a detailed harbor map for a ship as it is entering its final destination. The map does not take the place of previous instructions, but it provides additional information needed for the successful completion of the voyage.

Righteous By Faith

And in the year 1888, God put forth special effort to enable His remnant church to enter into such a spiritual experience that the latter rain would be poured out upon them and capacitate them to give the final message to the whole world in order for Christ to return. See "1888 Revisited," in *Our Greatest Need* by Ron Spear. This special effort consisted in having Elders A. T. Jones and E. J. Waggoner give series of sermons on righteousness by faith at the 1888 General Conference session. Their presentations were "a most precious message:"

> The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This

message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God. Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family. All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gift of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent. This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel's message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure. *Testimonies to Ministers*, 91–92.

After being rejected by many of the church leadership, we are told that these messages by Waggoner and Jones were the beginning of the latter rain power which was to have enlightened the whole world:

An unwillingness to yield up preconceived opinions, and to accept this truth, lay at the foundation of a large share of the opposition manifested at Minneapolis against the Lord's message through Brethren [E. J.] Waggoner and [A. T.] Jones. By exciting that opposition Satan succeeded in shutting away from our people, in a great measure, the special power of the Holy Spirit that God longed to impart to them. The enemy prevented them from obtaining that efficiency which might have been theirs in carrying the truth to the world, as the apostles proclaimed it after the day of Pentecost. The light that is to lighten the whole earth with its glory was resisted, and by the action of our own brethren has been in a great degree kept away from the world. *Selected Messages*, book 1, 234–235.

Christ's Active Obedience In Us

The true righteousness by faith message presented at the 1888 General Conference consisted of a righteousness by faith in Christ which produced not only pardon for sin—Justification—but also victory over

sin—Sanctification. It taught that righteousness by faith consists of complete obedience to all of God's revealed will. It taught that righteousness by faith is a result of Christ living out His life of perfect obedience within the believer. Elder Waggoner expressed it in the following words:

> The Bible does not teach us that God calls us righteous simply because Jesus of Nazareth was righteous eighteen hundred years ago. It says that by His obedience we are made righteous. Notice that it is present, actual righteousness. The trouble with those who object to the righteousness of Christ being imputed to believers is that they do not take into consideration the fact that Jesus lives. He is alive today, as much as when He was in Judea. "He ever liveth," and He is "the same yesterday, and today and for ever." Hebrews 13:8. His life is as perfectly in harmony with the law now as it was then. And He lives in the hearts of those who believe on Him.
>
> Therefore it is Christ's present obedience in believers that makes them righteous. *Waggoner on Romans*, 101–102.

The servant of the Lord has stated it this way:

> It is the privilege of every believer in Christ to possess Christ's nature, a nature far above that which Adam forfeited by transgression. He who sees the Son by faith and believes in Him, is obedient to the commandments of God, and *in this obedience he finds everlasting life*. *The Upward Look*, 18.

> *The active obedience of Christ* clothes the believing sinner with the righteousness that meets the demands of the law. *The Youth's Instructor,* November 29, 1894.

Every Provision Made

Christ has made every provision in order for His final generation to demonstrate to the world the power of His grace to sanctify the human heart:

> Christ has made every provision for the sanctification of His Church. He has made abundant provision for every soul

> to have such grace and strength that he will be more than a conqueror in the warfare against sin. The Saviour is wounded afresh and put to open shame when His people pay no heed to His word. He came to this world and lived a sinless life, that in His power His people might also live lives of sinlessness. He desires them by practicing the principles of truth to show to the world that God's grace has power to sanctify the heart. *Review and Herald*, April 1, 1902.

Thus we see that God has done every thing needed to capacitate His remnant church to become the final generation—a generation of saints fully obedient, by His grace, to the greatest level of light ever entrusted to mankind. He has revealed the spiritual truths to create perfected characters, and those truths necessary to expose the deceptions of wily Satan. Christ has also promised unlimited, enabling and transforming power in order for His people to experience those three-angel-truths for themselves and then to share them with the whole world.

Yes, God has long been prepared to form the final generation and to cleanse His sanctuary. The heavenly agencies have long been waiting for the human agents:

> The heavenly agencies have long been waiting for the human agents, the members of the church, to cooperate with them in the great work to be done. They are waiting for you. So vast is the field, so comprehensive the design, that every sanctified heart will be pressed into service as an agent of divine power. *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 15, 309.

Chapter Three

Efforts to Prevent the Formation of the Final Generation

WHILE THE GODHEAD has been doing all possible to facilitate the formation of the final generation, Satan and his agents have been doing all they possibly can to prevent such development.

Laodicean Condition Delay

Early on, Satan succeeded in luring the Adventist movement into Laodicean lukewarmness. As early as 1856, the leadership recognized that the message to the church of Laodicea was then applicable to the early movement. See *Ellen White, The Early Years*, vol. 1, 1827–1862, 342–345. This was nine years before the church was officially organized, with the name Seventh-day Adventist. The lukewarm Laodicean condition effectively prevented the formation of the final generation at that time and delayed Christ's second coming. Inspiration tells us that Christ could have come within a few short years of 1844 if His people had followed faithfully His leading:

> Had Adventists, after the great disappointment in 1844, held fast their faith, and followed on unitedly in the opening providence of God, receiving the message of the third angel and in the power of the Holy Spirit proclaiming it to the world, they would have seen the salvation of God, the Lord would have wrought mightily with their efforts, the work would have been completed, and Christ would have come ere this to receive His people to their reward." *Selected Messages*, book 1, 68 [Written in 1883].

Latter Rain Rejection Delay

Again, towards the end of the 19th century, Christ worked mightily to prepare the final generation. As we have mentioned, He sent the

message of true righteousness by faith Through A. T. Jones and E. J. Waggoner. But again the devil was successful in derailing God's plans for His church. Again we quote:

> An unwillingness to yield up preconceived opinions, and to accept this truth, lay at the foundation of a large share of the opposition manifested at Minneapolis against the Lord's message through Brethren [E. J.] Waggoner and [A. T.] Jones. By exciting that opposition Satan succeeded in shutting away from our people, in a great measure, the special power of the Holy Spirit that God longed to impart to them. The enemy prevented them from obtaining that efficiency which might have been theirs in carrying the truth to the world, as the apostles proclaimed it after the day of Pentecost. The light that is to lighten the whole earth with its glory was resisted, and by the action of our own brethren has been in a great degree kept away from the world. Ibid., 234–235.

Many of the leadership of the church refused to accept the message of righteousness by faith as given by Jones and Waggoner. This was in spite of God endorsing their messages through His messenger Ellen G. White. Early on, men in our church developed a tendency of ignoring or disobeying the counsels of the Lord given through the Spirit of prophecy. Because of this tendency, the final generation of fully obedient saints was again not accomplished. Again Christ's second coming was delayed. Inspiration confirmed this situation eight years after 1888:

> If those who claimed to have a living experience in the things of God had done their appointed work as the Lord ordained, the whole world would have been warned ere this, and the Lord Jesus would have come in power and great glory. *Review and Herald*, October 6, 1896.

Insubordination Delay of "Many Years"

Four years later, in 1901, the Lord informed His people that because of their insubordination they might have to remain in this world many more years:

> We may have to remain here in this world because of

> insubordination many more years, as did the children of Israel; but for Christ's sake, His people should not add sin to sin by charging God with the consequence of their own wrong course of action. *Evangelism*, 696.

Tragically, we have not learned from these experiences of the past. Satan has had great success in his final deception for us as a people of unsettling our confidence in the Testimony of Jesus which is the Spirit of prophecy. See *Selected Messages*, book 1, 48. Rather than becoming increasingly *obedient* to God's revealed will in the Spirit of prophecy, we have *progressively departed farther and farther* from those directives. Increasingly, our health and educational institutions, to a great extent, are operated more and more like the world. Likewise, our lifestyle behavior has increasingly become more worldly. See the books *Retreating Towards Egypt* and *Rebellion* by Ron Spear.

Doctrinal Blindness

This persistence in rejecting Holy Spirit-sent light through the Spirit of prophecy has led to an increase in spiritual Laodicean blindness. Whereas, before 1950, there was great doctrinal unity among us as a people, in 1994 it was documented that there were at least five different versions of the gospel being preached and promoted among us. See *Who Has the Truth?* by Martin Weber, Home Study International Press, Silver Spring, Maryland, 1994.

Satan has had to acknowledge that Christ, while on earth, was successful in resisting all temptation and thus remaining always loyal to His Heavenly Father. Satan is aware that the Bible states that Jesus came "in the likeness," not the unlikeness, of fallen man. He knows that Christ was the seed of Abraham and of David "according to the flesh." He also realizes that the victorious Jesus in fallen flesh proves that the fallen sons and daughters of Adam, with access to the same power which the human Christ had access to, can also live the same life of victory over all temptation. Therefore, he has worked with all subtlety to undermine the truth of Christ living His earthly life of victory in fallen sinful flesh. He points to the fact that no other human being has ever lived fully victorious over sin. He therefore claims, that Jesus of Nazareth *must have had* some advantage over the rest of humanity. He claims that the Bible *does not really teach* that Jesus took fallen

sinful humanity as His nature while He was on earth. He claims that when the Bible says "likeness" *it really means* "unlikeness."

He knows that if man accepts his deception regarding Christ's human nature, that Christ's life of victory over sin will not then be believed to be an example for fallen man to achieve. His false version of the gospel, then, consists of forgiveness only. Sanctification, or full obedience from a transformed character, is optional for salvation. Full obedience, even through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, is called legalism by Satan and his supporters. In order for this to sound reasonable, he teaches that man's fallen nature itself is sin, and since we retain our fallen natures until glorified at Christ's second coming, the "saints will be sinning until Jesus comes." Thus, Satan's gospel, in its various versions, is a gospel of salvation ***in*** sin, while Christ's everlasting, true gospel is salvation ***from*** sin.

Satan teaches that Christ's death on the cross was not only our Substitute for our second death but that His life of victory was also our substitute for our living a life of victory. This is a half truth (a falsehood when presented as the full truth), for indeed Christ's life of victory is a substitute for when we fail, but we are to arise and not continue to fall. When you fall you are to ask for forgiveness and cling closer to Christ who "is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy." Jude 24.

"Only Believe"

If we accept the above half truth of Satan, then the gospel becomes "Only believe" which is Satan's greatest deception:

> You will hear the cry "Only believe." Satan believed and trembled. We must have a faith that works by love *and purifies the heart*. The idea prevails that Christ has done all for us, and that we can go on transgressing the commandments and will not be held accountable for it. This is the greatest deception that the enemy ever devised. We must take our position that we will not violate the commandments at any cost, and be in that spiritual condition that we can educate others in spiritual things. *Selected Messages*, book 3, 153.

Satan also claims that Christ's personal life of victory over all temptation was everything that God needs in order to vindicate His

law and character. The reality is that, God needs Christ's personal life of victory over all temptation, and *also, Christ's life of victory lived out in His saints on earth*, in order to be vindicated before the universe. This is, at least in part, because of one of Satan's claims that after the fall of man: " . . . it was impossible for the sons and daughters of Adam to keep the law of God, and thus charged upon God a lack of wisdom and love. If they could not keep the law, then there was fault with the Lawgiver." *Signs of the Times*, January 16, 1896.

But Christ actively living out His life of victory in the lives of His final generation will convincingly prove that God's requirement of full obedience to all known light as a requirement for salvation is not unreasonable. It will also document that Christ, in His human nature, had no unfair advantage over fallen, but converted, sons and daughters of Adam.

Error Mixed With Truth

But Satan teaches truth mixed subtlety with error. By specious reasoning, he claims that there is no need for a victorious final generation. If that be true, then the great antitypical day of atonement consists merely in applying the benefits of Christ's death to the blotting out of the heavenly records of sin. It no longer includes the process of cleansing Christ's Temple on earth—His saints. Therefore, any perceived delay in Christ's second coming is related only to God's gospel of love and mercy [downplaying justice which requires full obedience] not being carried to the whole world. Any perceived delay is not related in any way to the saints reluctance to participate fully with Christ in the cleansing process of the heavenly sanctuary. It is then proposed, that since the saints are not part of the cleansing process of the heavenly sanctuary, that there is not really a pre-advent Judgment to evaluate the saints level of cleanness. It is even proposed that there is not really a heavenly sanctuary because "the atonement was completed by Christ on the cross." A common misconception in Adventism, associated with these above mistruths from Satan, is that when we confess and repent of a sin, at that moment it is cast into the depths of the sea and that God will remember it no more. Even if the next day after repenting of a specific sin, we fall on the same point again, God does not remember the previous occurrence. This is contrary to the truth that we learn from the sanctuary services. According to Inspiration, when a sin is

confessed and repented of, it is not cancelled but is transferred into the sanctuary. There its record remains for review during the Day of Atonement. The record is retained there in order that determination can be made whether or not the individual, by the grace of God, is progressing in a life of victory over sin. If it is determined that the individual is remaining in a state of repentance and, by God's grace, gaining victory over temptation, then the record of that sin is blotted out. Then it is cast into the depths of sea, and then, God will remember them no more. This is an essential truth of the cleansing of the sanctuary. See the book *Our Greatest Need* by Ron Spear.

The New Theology

Many combinations of the above errors of Satan are being taught among us today, and are known as the New Theology. This cascade of error had its formal entrance into Adventism with the publication of the book *Questions On Doctrine* in 1957. This book stated on page 383 that not only was Christ sinless in His life but also "in His nature." Again on page 650 it has a subheading entitled *Took Sinless Human Nature*. Under the subheading there are nine Spirit of prophecy quotations purportedly to support the subheading, but in actuality, none of them do. The truth is that, there are 400 statements in the Spirit of prophecy that say directly or indirectly that Jesus took upon Himself the fallen or sinful human nature. In addition, some twelve hundred references in Adventist literature prior to 1957, by major writers and church leaders, were unanimous in support of Christ living a life of victory over sin in a fallen human nature. See *The Word Was Made Flesh*, by Ralph Larsen, and *Touched With Our Feelings,* by J. R. Zurcher. For a discussion of the higher and lower powers of man and how their understanding harmonizes the favorite Spirit of prophecy references used by New Theology adherents, with those statements that clearly say that Christ took man's fallen nature, see *Golden Links of Truth* by Vernon Sparks.

Nearly 150,000 copies of the book *Questions On Doctrine* were distributed. These were sent to the religious libraries and seminaries of Christianity and were portrayed as representing what Seventh-day Adventists believe. As we have seen, this false understanding that Christ took a human nature different from our fallen flesh is the root from which a whole chain of satanic lies spring forth.

On November 18, 2003, the Adventist News Network posted on its Web site a report to the world church entitled "Questions On Doctrine" Book Annotated, Republished. It portrays the republishing of this book for the purpose of allaying fears that it being out of print means that our beliefs have changed back to the pre-*Questions On Doctrine* era. It claims that this revised edition "makes clear Adventist thought today—and in a line traceable to Ellen White and other pioneers—accurately reflecting general Christian understanding that while Jesus took on the 'innocent infirmities' of hunger, pain, weakness, sorrowing and death, He did not have the propensity toward sin that humans after the fall possess." Tragically, this revised edition still represents Christ as having different flesh than fallen, sinful man. Thus, His life of victory cannot be expected to be our experience, and the whole chain of Satan's errors mentioned above remain as "logical" conclusions. This republishing of the book *Questions On Doctrine* does not bode well for Seventh-day Adventism, nor for the formation of the final generation. For further discussion, see Appendix B.

Chapter Four

Where We Are Today

JUST AS IT WAS NOT God's plan that the children of Israel should wander in the wilderness for 40 years before entering the earthly promised land, it has also not been God's plan that modern Israel's entrance into the Heavenly promised land be delayed these now over 150 years. God has not been able to use His people on earth to finish His work for two interrelated reasons. His people have not been able to be used by God to give the everlasting Gospel to the whole world because of their own failure to understand and/or experience that gospel.

God's Remnant church, though calling the World to obedience to Christ, has, for many years now, been in direct disobedience to Christ. While praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we are to a large measure rejecting the guidance of the Holy Spirit as so abundantly given to us in the Testimony of Jesus which is the Spirit of prophecy. See the books *Retreating Towards Egypt*, and *Rebellion* by Ron Spear.

Tragically, our unfaithfulness has not allowed the blessings made available to us, to actually be received, and to thus prepare us to accomplish the task entrusted to us. We are being weighed in the balances of the sanctuary, and we are in grave danger of being declared "Found wanting."

> Our position in the world is not what it should be. We are far from where we should have been had our Christian experience been in harmony with the light and the opportunities given us, had we from the beginning constantly pressed onward and upward. Had we walked in the light that has been given us, had we followed on to know the Lord, our path would have grown brighter and brighter. But many of those who have had special light are so conformed to the world that they can scarcely be distinguished from world-

lings. They do not stand forth as God's peculiar people, chosen and precious. It is difficult to discern between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.

In the balances of the sanctuary the Seventh-day Adventist church is to be weighed. She will be judged by the privileges and advantages that she has had. If her spiritual experience does not correspond to the advantages that Christ, at infinite cost, has bestowed on her, if the blessings conferred have not qualified her to do the work entrusted to her, on her will be pronounced the sentence: "Found wanting." By the light bestowed, the opportunities given, will she be judged. *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 247.

Under the inroads of the New Theology we have become openly fragmented in our doctrines and in our lifestyles. As the New Theology has taken us closer to the theology of the fallen churches of Babylon, so our methods of church planting and church growth have become patterned after theirs. By diminishing the importance of lifestyle standards among us, and through the introduction of celebration style worship services and music, we have lowered the standards of Adventism and have invited the world to march in. We now congratulate ourselves for rapid growth. We are tempted to portray the rate of accessions to our " Faith " as a manifestation of the latter rain. We "categorically deny" that we are in apostasy—open, persistent, and leadership led and/or condoned disobedience to the Lord's guidance.

Nothing New Under the Sun

There is nothing new under the sun. We tend to repeat the history of ancient Israel. Let us listen to the servant of the Lord as she helps us to see our present situation:

The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Ecclesiastes 1:9.

There is great similarity between our history and that of the children of Israel. God led His people from Egypt into the wilderness, where they could keep His law and obey His voice. The Egyptians, who had no regard for the Lord, were

encamped close by them; yet what was to the Israelites a great flood of light, illuminating the whole camp, and shedding brightness upon the path before them, was to the hosts of Pharaoh a wall of clouds, making blacker the darkness of night.

So, at this time, there is a people whom God has made the depositaries of His law. To those who obey them, the commandments of God are as a pillar of fire, lighting and leading the way to eternal salvation. But unto those who disregard them, they are as the clouds of night. *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 27.

Satan's snares are laid for us as verily as they were laid for the children of Israel just prior to their entrance into the land of Canaan. We are repeating the history of that people. Ibid., vol. 5, 160.

There are very few who are circumspect. Like the children of Israel, they will not take heed to words of counsel, but follow their own inclination. They unite with a worldly element in attending gatherings where they will be brought into notice, and thus lead the way and others follow. What has been done once will be done again by themselves and many others. Every step these take makes a lasting impression, not only on their own consciences and habits, but upon those of others. This consideration gives awful dignity to human life.

My heart aches day after day and night after night for our churches. Many are progressing, but in the back track. "The path of the just . . . shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Their march is onward and upward. They progress from strength to strength, from grace to grace, and from glory to glory. This is the privilege of all our churches. But, oh, how different has it been with them! They need divine illumination. They must face square about. I know what I say. Unless they shall become Christians indeed, they will go from weakness to weakness, divisions will increase, and many souls will be led to perdition. Ibid., 93.

The Lord has a controversy with His professed people in these last days. In this controversy men in responsible positions will take a course directly opposite to that pursued by Nehemiah. They will not only ignore and despise the Sabbath themselves, but they will try to keep it from others by burying it beneath the rubbish of custom and tradition. In churches and in large gatherings in the open air, ministers will urge upon the people the necessity of keeping the first day of the week. *Review and Herald*, March 18, 1884.

In these last days God's people will be exposed to the very same dangers as were ancient Israel. Those who will not receive the warnings that God gives will fall into the same perils as did ancient Israel and come short of entering into rest through unbelief. Ancient Israel suffered calamities on account of their unsanctified hearts and unsubmitted wills. Their final rejection as a nation was a result of their own unbelief, self-confidence, impenitence, blindness of mind, and hardness of heart. In their history we have a danger signal lifted before us. *Last Day Events*, 60-61.

When I study the Scriptures, I am alarmed for the Israel of God in these last days. They are exhorted to flee from idolatry. I fear that they are asleep and so conformed to the world that it would be difficult to discern between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not. The distance is widening between Christ and His people, and lessening between them and the world. The marks of distinction between Christ's professed people and the world have almost disappeared. Like ancient Israel, they follow after the abominations of the nations around them. *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 276.

Spiritual Blindness

Disobedience to the Lord leads to such a loss of spiritual discernment that spiritual losses are not discerned and worldly prosperity is regarded as tokens of God's favor:

As Solomon continued to conform to the customs of

the world, his pride greatly increased. And the worldly prosperity that attended his apostasy, was regarded by him as a token of God's favor. So fully had he yielded himself to evil influences, that his spiritual discernment was well-nigh destroyed. He could not see the terrible losses that were sustained by the nation spiritually because he brought into the kingdom an abundance of the gold of Ophir and the silver of Tarshish. *Review and Herald*, January 18, 1906.

Neglect or rejection of the light of the Lord's counsels on how to operate His institutions for now these many years has led to lack of discernment or blindness of Seventh-day Adventists in regard to some spiritual truths. To be unrepentant of apostasy in one area results in apostasy in another area:

Disregard of the light that God has given brings the sure result. It creates a shadow, a darkness that is more dark because of the light which has been sent. . . . If a man withdraws himself from light and evidence, and yields to Satan's seducing arts, he himself draws the curtain of unbelief about him, so that light cannot be distinguished from darkness. *Our High Calling*, 26.

Our present situation is accurately described as follows:

If all of those who come together for meetings of edification and prayer could be regarded as true worshipers, then might we hope, though much would still remain to be done for us. But it is in vain to deceive ourselves. Things are far from being what the appearance would indicate. From a distant view much may appear beautiful which, upon close examination, will be found full of deformities. The prevailing spirit of our time is that of infidelity and apostasy—a spirit of pretended illumination because of a knowledge of the truth, but in reality of the blindest presumption. There is a spirit of opposition to the plain word of God and to the testimony of His Spirit. There is a spirit of idolatrous exaltation of mere human reason above the revealed wisdom of God.

There are men among us in responsible positions who hold that the opinions of a few conceited philosophers, so

called, are more to be trusted than the truth of the Bible, or the testimonies of the Holy Spirit. Such a faith as that of Paul, Peter, or John is considered old-fashioned and insufferable at the present day. It is pronounced absurd, mystical, and unworthy of an intelligent mind.

God has shown me that these men are Hazaels to prove a scourge to our people. They are wise above what is written. *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 79.

The Earth Will Be Lightened

Indeed, we have had to remain many more years in this world because of insubordination. Our still being here is mute testimony of our refusal to enter into the full obedience to Christ required to form the final generation. We should be sobered, but we can also take courage from the following quotation:

> The Lord God is a jealous God; yet He bears long with the sins and transgressions of His people in this generation. If the people of God had walked in His counsel, the work of God would have advanced, the messages of truth would have been borne to all people that dwell on the face of the whole earth. . . . But because the people are disobedient, unthankful, unholy, as were ancient Israel, time is prolonged that all may hear the last message of mercy proclaimed with a loud voice. The Lord's work has been hindered, the sealing time delayed. Many have not heard the truth. But the Lord will give them a chance to hear and be converted. *The Faith I Live By*, 288.

A fully obedient generation, resulting in the latter rain and loud cry, will include faithfulness in tithes and offerings associated with zeal and fervor:

> Make haste, brethren, you have now [the] opportunity to be honest with God; delay not. For your soul's sake, no longer rob God in tithes and offerings.
>
> The Lord calls for every talent of means and ability to be put to use. When the reproach of indolence and slothfulness shall have been wiped away from the church, the Spirit

> of the Lord will be graciously manifested; divine power will combine with human effort, the church will see the providential interpositions of the Lord God of hosts, the light of truth will be diffused, the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ whom He hath sent. As in the apostles' time, many souls will turn unto the Lord. The earth will be lightened with the glory of the angel from heaven. *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 15, 308–309.

Unfortunately, too many Adventists attempt to dismiss discussions regarding our waywardness by claiming the promise that the "ship is going through." We must remember, that the ship of ancient Israel went successfully through the wilderness wandering of 40 years, but that only two of its millions of members entered the promised land. As a whole generation of Israelites perished in the wilderness, and personally failed to enter the promised land, just so *several* generations of Seventh-day Adventists, having had the opportunity of being in the final generation, have been laid to rest, and that opportunity, tragically, has had to be passed on to others.

Chapter Five

The Path Before Us

THE SERVANT OF THE LORD refers to a new movement in Adventism that would discard the old truths, publish books of a new order, do a great work in the cities and allow nothing to stand in its way:

> The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure. *Selected Messages*, book 1, 204–205.

We have been told that:

> Divisions will come in the church. Two parties will be developed. The wheat and tares grow up together for the harvest. *Selected Messages*, book 2, 114.

Christ has not been caught off guard by the depth, the breadth, nor stubbornness of the insubordination or the apostasy of His visible church. In spite of appearances He is in charge of His church. He will guide the bark, the noble ship safely into port:

> We do not worry. The cause is the Lord's; He is on board the ship as chief director, and He will guide our bark into port. Our Master can command the winds and the waves. We are only His workers, to obey orders; what He saith, that will we do. We have no need to be anxious or troubled. *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 7, 91.

> The sincere believers of truth are often made sad, and their trials greatly increased, by elements among them that annoy and dishearten them in their efforts. But there is no need of doubts and fears that the work of God will not succeed. God is at the head of the work, and He will set everything in order. Let us have faith that He is going to carry the noble ship which bears His people, safely into port. *Bible Echos*, July 15, 1892.

When the children of Israel accepted the false reports of the faithless spies, and refused to believe that the Lord could successfully lead them in the conquest of the promised land, faithful Caleb, Joshua, Moses, and others, did not abandon the movement. Moses was offered by God to make of him a great nation, but out of love for his wayward people he refused. We are told that Moses is to ever be our example:

> In the example of Moses pleading for the children of Israel, is represented the position that we should take in regard to the people of God, *however erring, or weak, or defective they may be*. *Review and Herald*, October 3, 1893.

The issue is not, whether the noble ship—the work of God—will go through or not. The issue is will you or I be fully obedient to the Captain of that ship, and thus be upon it when it goes successfully into port?

Ironically, Leroy E. Froom, in spite of his leadership in the original formulation and publishing of the book *Questions On Doctrine,* stated the issue well:

> God has the power, the plan, and the provision. And within that provision is contained the human potentials destined to participate in this final phase of His triumph—a completely yielded people destined to share in its consummation. That is the promise and the certainty that brings this personal challenge. A willing people will respond in the "day of His power." That is the immutable outcome. Will you, will I, be a vital part of that responsive host? That is the supreme question—and challenge. Think it through." *Movement of Destiny*, Leroy E. Froom, 664.

God will have a purified people. He will have a final generation who are fully surrendered to His revealed will. He will shake and purify His church. There are three phases to that purifying process. The first phase is the introduction of false doctrines. The second phase is the straight testimony of the True Witness. The third phase is the persecution under the enforcement of Sunday laws.

Phase One of the Shaking of Adventism —False Doctrines

Studying early and late, our pioneers, with the assistance of the gift of the Spirit of prophecy when needed, laid out the foundations of our faith—a line of truth that is to remain until the saints enter the New Jerusalem:

> Many of our people do not realize how firmly the foundation of our faith has been laid. My husband, Elder Joseph Bates, Father Pierce, Elder [Hiram] Edson, and others who were keen, noble, and true, were among those who, after the passing of the time in 1844, searched for the truth as for hidden treasure. I met with them, and we studied and prayed earnestly. Often we remained together until late at night, and sometimes through the entire night, praying for light and studying the Word. Again and again these brethren came together to study the Bible, in order that they might know its meaning, and be prepared to teach it with power. When they came to the point in their study where they said, "We can do nothing more," the Spirit of the Lord would come upon me, I would be taken off in

> vision, and a clear explanation of the passages we had been studying would be given me, with instruction as to how we were to labor and teach effectively. Thus light was given that helped us to understand the Scriptures in regard to Christ, His mission, and His priesthood. A line of truth extending from that time to the time when we shall enter the city of God, was made plain to me, and I gave to others the instruction that the Lord had given me. *Selected Messages*, book 1, 206–207.

In 1905, the servant of the Lord used three terms to describe the biblical doctrines of the church—pins, pillars and foundation. All of these doctrines were to remain unchanged and unmoved:

> When men come in who would move one pin or pillar from the foundation which God has established by His Holy Spirit, let the aged men who were pioneers in our work speak plainly, and let those who are dead speak also, by the reprinting of their articles in our periodicals. Gather up the rays of divine light that God has given as He has led His people on step by step in the way of truth. This truth will stand the test of time and trial. *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, 55.

> When the power of God testifies as to what is truth, that truth is to stand forever as the truth. No after suppositions, contrary to the light God has given are to be entertained. *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, 31–32.

Undoubtedly, the devastating inroads into Adventism of the New Theology—the gospel of fallen Protestantism—is the Omega departure from the true faith:

> Be not deceived; many will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. We have now before us the alpha of this danger. The omega will be of a most startling nature. *Selected Messages*, book 1, 197.

The servant of the Lord tells us that God will arouse His people, and that if other means fail, heresies will come in among us to sift and to shake us. In response to our apostasy in the operation of His institutions God permits us to suffer the natural consequences of the rejection of

light—diminished spiritual discernment followed by the embracing of false doctrines:

> God will arouse His people; if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat. The Lord calls upon all who believe His Word to awake out of sleep. Precious light has come, appropriate for this time. It is Bible truth, showing the perils that are right upon us. This light should lead us to a diligent study of the Scriptures, and a most critical examination of the positions which we hold. *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, 40.

In this hour of shaking, it is of utmost importance that each one of us knows for himself what he believes:

> The light given me has been very forcible that many would go out from us, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. The Lord desires that every soul who claims to believe the truth shall have an intelligent knowledge of what is truth. False prophets will arise and will deceive many. Everything is to be shaken that can be shaken. Then does it not become everyone to understand the reasons of our faith? In place of having so many sermons there should be a more close searching of the Word of God, opening the Scriptures, text by text, and searching for the strong evidences that sustain the fundamental doctrines that have brought us where we now are, upon the platform of eternal truth. *Selected Messages*, book 2, 392–393.

God is purifying to Himself a people. The entrance of doctrinal heresies is the first phase of the shaking of Adventism and its purpose is to prepare those without a love of the truth to be sifted out during the third phase of the shaking which will leave the church with that unity for which Christ prayed. His people must be in unity of truth before they can receive the latter-rain power to give the loud cry:

> The last prayer that Christ offered for His disciples before His trial was that they might be one in Him. Satan is determined that this oneness shall not be; for it is the strongest witness that can be borne that God gave His Son to

reconcile the world to Heaven. But the union for which Christ prayed *must exist* among God's people *before* He can bestow on the church the enlargement and power that He longs to bestow on it. *Review and Herald*, May 12, 1903.

Phase Two of the Shaking of Adventism —Straight Testimony

As an integral part of His shaking and purification of His church, God has called for the straight testimony to be revived amongst His people. When our church was threatened by the heresies of the alpha of apostasy around the turn of the century, Ellen White was instructed to "meet it." See *Selected Messages*, book 1, 205. With the present startling inroads of the New Theology, God's faithful of today are also called to "meet it:"

> The people of God must see their wrongs and arouse to zealous repentance and a putting away of those sins which have brought them into such a deplorable condition of poverty, blindness, wretchedness, and fearful deception. I was shown that the pointed testimony must live in the church. This alone will answer to the message to the Laodiceans. Wrongs must be reproved, sin must be called sin, and iniquity must be met promptly and decidedly, and put away from us as a people. *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 260.

> The present attitude of the church is not pleasing to God. There has come in a self-confidence that has led them to feel no necessity for more truth and greater light. We are living at a time when Satan is at work on the right hand and on the left, before and behind us; and yet as a people we are asleep. God wills that a voice shall be heard arousing His people to action. Ibid., vol. 5, 708.

The advancement of error is the call for God's servants to make the truth sharper and clearer:

> Every time that error is advanced, it will work for good to those who sincerely love God; for when the truth is shadowed by error, those whom the Lord has made His sentinels

will make the truth sharper and clearer. They will search the Scriptures for evidence of their faith. The advancement of error is the call for God's servants to arouse, and place the truth in bold relief. *The Signs of the Times*, January 6, 1898.

We are to call rebellion by its right name as we stand in the breach made in the doctrines of our faith:

> The doctrines must be plainly understood. . . . The deceptions will increase, and we are to call rebellion by its right name. We are to stand with the whole armor on. In this conflict we do not meet men only, but principalities and powers. We wrestle not against flesh and blood. . . .
>
> I write this because many in the church are represented to me as seeing men like trees walking. They must have another and deeper experience before they discern the snares spread to take them in the net of the deceiver. There must be no halfway work done now. The Lord calls for staunch, decided, whole-souled men and women to stand in the gap, and make up the hedge. *Selected Messages*, book 2, 395.

The pointed testimony containing the whole truth must be given to counteract the teachers who cry, peace, peace:

> God's people will be tested and proved. The plain and pointed testimony must act a prominent part in this work. In these days of darkness and peril who is able to stand and speak the whole truth? Multitudes of teachers prophesy smooth things. They see no special cause of alarm in the present condition of the professed people of God. The people are asleep, and the teachers are asleep. They cry, Peace, peace, and the multitude that hear believe their report and are at ease. This makes the necessity greater for faithful teachers to bear the pointed, faithful testimony. The present is a time of scouring and purifying, a time of warfare and trial. *Review and Herald*, November 26, 1861.

This straight testimony, this saying what God says about sin, disobedience, and apostasy, this saying what God says about how to operate the branches of His work, this saying what God says about His

standards for Christian living, and this saying what God says what pure doctrinal truth is, is being used of God as the second phase of the shaking and purifying of His people. We are told that "some" will not accept the straight truth. "Some" will rise up against God's efforts to restore sight to our Laodicean blindness. The servant of the Lord tells us that this rising up against the straight testimony will also cause a shaking among us:

> I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen. I was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. It will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver of the testimony, and it will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. This straight testimony some will not bear. They will rise up against it, and this will cause a shaking among God's people. *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 1, 184–185.

Phase Three of the Shaking of Adventism —Persecution

The third phase of the shaking of Adventism involves the separation from the loyal and true, of those who do not come up to full obedience to Christ in lifestyle, and in His methods for carrying on His work. The loyal and true will then remain alone to give the loud cry to the world. During this third phase, Christ uses (allows) persecution and adversity to fully mature the wheat and the tares in His church and to purge out the chaff from His threshing floor:

> I was pointed to the providence of God among His people and was shown that every trial made by the refining, purifying process upon professed Christians proves some to be dross. The fine gold does not always appear. In every religious crisis some fall under temptation. The shaking of God blows away multitudes like dry leaves. Prosperity multiplies a mass of professors. Adversity purges them out of the church. As a class, their spirits are not steadfast with God. They go out from us because they are not of us; for when tribulation or persecution arises because of the Word, many are offended. *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 89.

Under the persecution associated with the Sunday laws, those who have persisted in operating the branches of the Lord's work contrary to His directives, and those who have persisted in disobeying the Bible and the Spirit of prophecy in how to live for Christ, will work under the black banner of Satan. Much of what now appears in Adventism to be rich floors of wheat will then prove to be merely chaff:

> An apostate church will unite with the powers of earth and hell to place upon the forehead or in the hand, the mark of the beast, and prevail upon the children of God to worship the beast and his image. They will seek to compel them to renounce their allegiance to God's law, and yield homage to the Papacy. Then will come the times which will try men's souls; for the confederacy of apostasy will demand that the loyal subjects of God shall renounce the law of Jehovah, and repudiate the truth of His Word. Then will the gold be separated from the dross, and it will be made apparent who are the godly, who are the loyal and true, and who are the disloyal, the dross and the tinsel. What clouds of chaff will then be borne away by the fan of God! Where now our eyes can discover only rich floors of wheat, will be chaff blown away with the fan of God. Every one who is not centered in Christ will fail to stand the test and ordeal of that day. While those who are clothed with Christ's righteousness will stand firm to truth and duty, those who have trusted in their own righteousness will be ranged under the black banner of the prince of darkness. Then it will be seen whether the choice is for Christ or Belial. *Maranatha*, 204.

By Every Word

The book of Revelation, which is the revelation of Jesus Christ, states that those who obey His commandments in the end time will also have the Testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of prophecy. Jesus has sent to this final generation the greatest amount of light and guidance given to any generation. Just as holy men of God were moved upon by the Holy Ghost to write the Scriptures, just so was Ellen G. White used as a pen by the Holy Spirit to communicate the will of Christ to His remnant people.

The parable of the ten virgins recorded in Matthew 25, is a representation of Christ's end time people. The oil in their lamps, represents the Holy Spirit work in the lives of the virgins in transforming their characters into harmony with the inspired Word:

> In the parable, all the ten virgins went out to meet the bridegroom. All had lamps and vessels for oil. For a time there was seen no difference between them. So with the church that lives just before Christ's second coming. All have a knowledge of the Scriptures. All have heard the message of Christ's near approach, and confidently expect His appearing. But as in the parable, so it is now. A time of waiting intervenes, faith is tried; and when the cry is heard, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him," many are unready. . . . They are destitute of the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit of God a knowledge of His Word is of no avail. The theory of truth, unaccompanied by the Holy Spirit, cannot quicken the soul or sanctify the heart. . . . Without the enlightenment of the Spirit, men will not be able to distinguish truth from error, and they will fall under the masterful temptations of Satan. *Amazing Grace*, 214.

Those who are seeking to experience the latter rain power of the Holy Spirit in their life and ministry, will not neglect or reject any of the inspired messages of Scripture, or of the Testimony of Jesus. We need to be preparing for the perils ahead by becoming familiar with, and living in harmony with, every word that proceeds from God:

> We are living in perilous times, and as we draw near the close of earth's history, there will be no safety for those who do not become familiar with the Word of God. I would warn the disciples of Christ of the impending days of peril, and beseech you to prepare for the time of test and trial; for everything that can be shaken, will be shaken. Do we now obey the Word of God, and live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God? Are we established and settled in the present truth? There is need of closely examining yourselves whether you are in the love of God;

for except Christ be in you, you are reprobates. Self-deception is dangerous, and no one of us can afford to go on in delusion. *The Youth's Instructor*, May 18, 1893.

Whenever men choose their own way, they place themselves in controversy with God. They will have no place in the kingdom of heaven, for they are at war with the very principles of Heaven. In disregarding the will of God, they are placing themselves on the side of Satan, the enemy of God and man. Not by one word, not by many words, but by every word that God has spoken, shall man live. We cannot disregard one word, however trifling it may seem to us, and be safe. *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, 52.

Oh, that modern Israel might recognize that disobedience to God's prophet today is what it has always been—apostasy!

Oh, that we might individually and corporately be willing to surrender our self-willed ways of living and working for the Lord and seek to hearken unto the statutes and judgments of the Spirit of prophecy to do them that we might live and go in and possess the land which the Lord our God giveth us! See Deuteronomy 4:1.

Oh, that modern Israel might learn that which ancient Israel failed to learn, that "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God"! Matthew 4:4.

The Sealing

As a result of the shaking of God's people, those who are faithful and remain to form the final generation will receive the seal of God in their forehead. This sealing process is depicted in Revelation 7:1–3:

And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

This important process is also depicted in Ezekiel 9:

> And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house. Ezekiel 9:3–6.

Those who are living by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God will have Christ's character reproduced in them and will be sealed in their forehead:

> Are we striving with all our power to attain to the stature of men and women in Christ? Are we seeking for His fullness, ever pressing toward the mark set before us—the perfection of His character? When the Lord's people reach this mark, they will be sealed in their foreheads. *Amazing Grace*, 216.

Only those who are standing in the counsel of God, and sighing and crying for the abominations in the church, including their own spiritual declension, receive God's seal:

> Who are standing in the counsel of God at this time? Is it those who virtually excuse wrongs among the professed people of God and who murmur in their hearts, if not openly, against those who would reprove sin? Is it those who take their stand against them and sympathize with those who commit wrong? No, indeed! Unless they repent, and leave the work of Satan in oppressing those who have the burden of the work and in holding up the hands of sinners in Zion, they will never receive the mark of God's sealing approval. They

> will fall in the general destruction of the wicked, represented by the work of the five men bearing slaughter weapons. Mark this point with care: Those who receive the pure mark of truth, wrought in them by the power of the Holy Ghost, represented by a mark by the man in linen, are those "that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done" in the church. Their love for purity and the honor and glory of God is such, and they have so clear a view of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, that they are represented as being in agony, even sighing and crying. Read the ninth chapter of Ezekiel. *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 267.

> The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God. *Maranatha*, 240.

The sealing of the final generation will take place at a time when the leadership of the church will, tragically, be playing the part of dumb dogs that will not bark:

> Here we see that the church—the Lord's sanctuary—was the first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God. The ancient men, those to whom God had given great light and who had stood as guardians of the spiritual interests of the people, had betrayed their trust. They had taken the position that we need not look for miracles and the marked manifestation of God's power as in former days. Times have changed. These words strengthen their unbelief, and they say: The Lord will not do good, neither will He do evil. He is too merciful to visit His people in judgment. Thus "Peace and safety" is the cry from men who will never again lift up their voice like a trumpet to show God's people their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins. These dumb dogs that would not bark are the ones who feel the just vengeance of an offended God. Men, maidens, and little children all perish together. *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 211.

Just as soon as God's remnant are sealed—a settling into the full knowledge and experience of the truth—the final shaking will come:

> Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads—it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved—just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. *Maranatha*, 200.

The Latter Rain

As an individual receives the seal of God in their forehead, their destiny of eternal life is sealed. Probation for them is closed. Those Seventh-day Adventists who have not lived by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God, those who have not had Christ's character perfected in them, those who have not stood in the counsel of God, have not received the seal of God, and their destiny of destruction with the wicked is sealed. Probation for them is closed. But, even when the judgments of God are in the land, probation is still open for those who have not known the truth:

> The time of God's destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who have had no opportunity to learn what is truth. Tenderly will the Lord look upon them. His heart of mercy is touched; His hand is still stretched out to save, while the door is closed to those who would not enter. *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 97.

Those in the church who receive the seal of God, now receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in latter rain power. Our work today is to yield our souls to Christ in order that our vessels may be clean to receive the outpouring of the latter rain:

> We are not to know the definite time either for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit or for the coming of Christ. . . . Today you are to give yourselves to God, that He may make of you vessels unto honor, and meet for His service. Today you are to give yourself to God, that you may be emptied of self, emptied of envy, jealousy, evil-surmising, strife, everything that shall be dishonoring to God. Today you are to have your vessel purified that it may be ready for the heavenly dew, ready for the showers of the latter rain; for the latter rain will come, and the blessing of God will fill every soul that

is purified from every defilement. It is our work today to yield our souls to Christ, that we may be fitted for the time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord—fitted for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. *Review and Herald*, March 22, 1892.

Those who have lived by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God—those who have, by God's grace, internalized the truth of the Bible and the Testimony of Jesus, thus benefiting from the former rain of the Holy Spirit—will be fully ripened spiritually by the latter rain:

> The latter rain, ripening earth's harvest, represents the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of man. But unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life; the green blade will not spring up. Unless the early showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection. *Testimonies to Ministers*, 506.

Those who have rejected or neglected the early rain ministry of the Holy Spirit through the Scriptures and the Testimony of Jesus will not receive nor recognize the greater light of the latter rain:

> Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it. Ibid., 507.

Only those who have cleansed themselves from all filthyness of the flesh and spirit, and perfected holiness in the fear of God, will receive the latter rain:

> I was shown that if God's people make no efforts on their part, but wait for the refreshing to come upon them and remove their wrongs and correct their errors; if they depend upon that to cleanse them from filthiness of the flesh and spirit, and fit them to engage in the loud cry of the third angel, they will be found wanting. The refreshing or power of God comes only on those who have prepared themselves for it by doing the work which God bids them, namely, cleansing themselves

from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 619.

Only those who have prepared for and receive the latter rain will be prepared to live in the sight of a Holy God:

> I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful and were looking to the time of "refreshing" and the "latter rain" to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God. Those who refuse to be hewed by the prophets and fail to purify their souls in obeying the whole truth, and who are willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come up to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there will be no time then to do it and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father. . . . I saw that none could share the "refreshing" unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. Let all remember that God is holy and that none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence. *Early Writings*, 71.

Those who fail to heed the counsel of the True Witness are eventually left to the control of their sinful traits and of evil angels. Those who are victorious in overcoming the Laodicean condition will receive the ripening influence of the latter rain and be prepared for translation:

> God leads His people on, step by step. He brings them up to different points calculated to manifest what is in the heart. Some endure at one point, but fall off at the next. At every advanced point the heart is tested and tried a little closer. If the professed people of God find their hearts opposed to this straight work, it should convince them that they have a

work to do to overcome, if they would not be spewed out of the mouth of the Lord. Said the angel: "God will bring His work closer and closer to test and prove every one of His people." Some are willing to receive one point; but when God brings them to another testing point, they shrink from it and stand back, because they find that it strikes directly at some cherished idol. Here they have opportunity to see what is in their hearts that shuts out Jesus. They prize something higher than the truth, and their hearts are not prepared to receive Jesus. Individuals are tested and proved a length of time to see if they will sacrifice their idols and heed the counsel of the True Witness. If any will not be purified through obeying the truth, and overcome their selfishness, their pride, and evil passions, the angels of God have the charge: "They are joined to their idols, let them alone," and they pass on to their work, leaving these with their sinful traits unsubdued, to the control of evil angels. Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation. *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 187.

The church will have to be purified to the point where the largest portion are laborers together with God before the latter rain will be poured out:

Every truly converted soul will be intensely desirous to bring others from the darkness of error into the marvelous light of the righteousness of Jesus Christ. The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with His glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be laborers together with God. When we have entire, whole-hearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God. *Review and Herald*, July 21, 1896.

Those who do not labor together with God will go into darkness

proportionate to the light which they have failed to live by, and to share:

> God cannot pour out His Spirit when selfishness and self-indulgence are so manifest; when a spirit prevails that, if put into words, would express that answer of Cain,—"Am I my brother's keeper?" If the truth for this time, if the signs that are thickening on every hand, that testify that the end of all things is at hand, are not sufficient to arouse the sleeping energy of those who profess to know the truth, then darkness proportionate to the light which has been shining will overtake these souls. There is not the semblance of an excuse for their indifference that they will be able to present to God in the great day of final reckoning. There will be no reason to offer as to why they did not live and walk and work in the light of the sacred truth of the Word of God, and thus reveal to a sin-darkened world, through their conduct, their sympathy, and their zeal, that the power and reality of the gospel could not be controverted. Ibid.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the final generation will be similar to, but more abundant than, that poured out upon the early Christian church:

> The work will be similar to that of the Day of Pentecost. As the "former rain" was given, in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the opening of the gospel, to cause the upspringing of the precious seed, so the "latter rain" will be given at its close for the ripening of the harvest. . . .
>
> The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. Here are "the times of refreshing" to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said: "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus." Acts 3:19, 20. *The Great Controversy*, 611–612.

The Blotting Out Of Sin

Peter tells us that the sins of the final generation will be blotted out during the latter rain:

> Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. Acts 3:19.

The Sanctuary record of the repented-of-sins of the final generation can be blotted out only after their individual cases are reviewed and there eternal destiny determined:

> It is impossible that the sins of man should be blotted out until after the judgment at which their cases are to be investigated. *The Great Controversy*, 485.

As we have seen, when the Saints are sealed their destiny is fixed for eternity and their probation closes. Once their destiny is determined, and they are receiving the latter rain, the record of their repented of sins can be blotted out from the Heavenly sanctuary records.

The sins which God's saints have repented of down through the ages, have been borne by Christ our High Priest and transferred to the Heavenly sanctuary. Before Christ's redemptive work for man is completed, there is a work of atonement for the removal of sin from the Sanctuary. As we have previously discussed, the Heavenly sanctuary can be cleansed only after God's living, final generation are cleansed. The cleansed sanctuary is a reflection of the pure gold of the living saints' Christlike characters:

> For eighteen centuries this work of ministration continued in the first apartment of the sanctuary. The blood of Christ, pleaded in behalf of penitent believers, secured their pardon and acceptance with the Father, yet their sins still remained upon the books of record. As in the typical service there was a- work of atonement at the close of the year, so before Christ's work for the redemption of men is completed there is a work of atonement for the removal of sin from the sanctuary. This is the service which began when the 2300 days ended. At that time, as foretold by Daniel the prophet, our High Priest entered the most holy, to perform the last division

of His solemn work—to cleanse the sanctuary.

As anciently the sins of the people were by faith placed upon the sin offering and through its blood transferred, in figure, to the earthly sanctuary, so in the new covenant the sins of the repentant are by faith placed upon Christ and transferred, in fact, to the heavenly sanctuary. And as the typical cleansing of the earthly was accomplished by the removal of the sins by which it had been polluted, so the actual cleansing of the heavenly is to be accomplished by the removal, or blotting out, of the sins which are there recorded. Ibid., 421–422.

Annulled Pardons

The once-repented-of-sins of Christ's professed followers who did not allow Christ to fully live out His life of victory in their lives are not blotted out. The guilt of those once-repented-of-sins is placed back upon them and they bear it with them in the general destruction of the wicked. This lesson is taught in the parable of the unjust steward found in Matthew 18. It is recorded their, that a certain king decided to investigate his servants. He found one man who owed him 10,000 talents which he was unable to repay. The king commanded that he, his wife, and his entire family be sold into slavery to obtain revenue to pay the debt. But when the servant begged him for mercy, "then the Lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt." Verse 27.

But then that forgiven servant went out and found a fellow servant who owed him a mere 100 pence. Refusing to listen to his pleas for mercy, he cast him into prison. On hearing of this development, the king called the first servant (whom he had previously forgiven) back into his presence. "and his Lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him." Verse 34.

After relating this parable, Jesus gave it a practical application to each and every one of us. "So likewise shall my Heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses." Verse 35.

Being once forgiven, those who repent of their repentance and refuse to live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God, annul their previous pardon. The Testimony of Jesus comments on this parable:

> But "if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." Romans 8:9. He is alienated from God, fitted only for eternal separation from Him.
>
> It is true that he may once have received forgiveness; but his unmerciful spirit shows that he now rejects God's pardoning love. He has separated himself from God, and is in the same condition as before he was forgiven. He has denied his repentance, and his sins are upon him as if he had not repented. *Christ's Object Lessons,* 251.

It is at this time, when the records of sin are blotted out of the heavenly sanctuary, that they are figuratively cast into the depths of the sea, and God will remember them no more:

> Thus will be realized the complete fulfillment of the new covenant promise: "I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." "In those days, and in that time, saith the Lord, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found." Jeremiah 31:34; 50:20. *The Great Controversy*, 485.

We are assured, that the final generation will not be able to bring into memory any particular sin once they have been blotted out:

> They [the righteous] cannot bring to mind any particular sins, but in their whole life they can see but little good. Their sins had gone beforehand to judgment, and pardon had been written. Their sins had been borne away into the land of forgetfulness, and they could not bring them to remembrance. *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, 135.

> As in the final atonement the sins of the truly penitent are to be blotted from the records of heaven, no more to

be remembered or come into mind, so in the type they were borne away into the wilderness, forever separated from the congregation. *Patriarchs and Prophets,* 358.

Chapter Six

The Loud Cry of the Fourth Angel

NOT ONLY does the latter rain mature the characters of the final generation, but it also enables them to give the loud cry of the three angels' messages with great power. The three angels of Revelation 6 through 12 are symbolic of God's saints engaged in the task of proclaiming the everlasting Gospel. It states that their message is to be given to them that dwell on the earth and to every nation and kindred and tongue and people. They are represented as flying in the midst of heaven and crying with a loud voice. There is nothing in those verses, however, that indicate that they succeed in their assigned task. Revelation 18 tells us of another angel which comes down from heaven with great power, and it is during its ministry that the earth is lightened with the glory of the gospel:

> And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. Revelation 18:1.

Temple Cleansed Twice

At the beginning of Christ's earthly ministry, He cleansed the temple of its sacrilegious profanation. Towards the end of His ministry, He cleansed it the second time. Just so, in the closing work for the world, two calls are made to the churches. The call of the fourth angel is a repetition of the second angel's message:

> And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. Revelation 18:2–3.

This second giving of the second angel's message exposes the increased errors which have entered the fallen churches:

> Then I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to the earth, to unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message. Great power and glory were imparted to the angel, and as he descended, the earth was lightened with his glory. The light which attended this angel penetrated everywhere, as he cried mightily, with a strong voice, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." The message of the fall of Babylon, as given by the second angel, is repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the churches since 1844. *Early Writings*, 277.

The full fall of Babylon occurs when Satan's power and deceptions are the greatest, and it is then that the fourth angel repeats the second angel's message:

> The Bible declares that before the coming of the Lord, Satan will work "with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness;" and they that "received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved," will be left to receive "strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." 2 Thessalonians 2:9–11. Not until this condition shall be reached, and the union of the church with the world shall be fully accomplished throughout Christendom, will the fall of Babylon be complete. The change is a progressive one, and the perfect fulfillment of Revelation 14:8 is yet future. *The Faith I Live By*, 285.

One Final Threefold Call

Under the loud cry of the fourth angel, the messages of the three angels are to blend into one final call, one final opportunity of salvation:

> The three angels' messages are to be combined, giving their threefold light to the world. In the Revelation, John says, "I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory." [Revela-

tion 18:2–5 quoted.] This represents the giving of the last and threefold message of warning to the world." *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary: Ellen G. White Comments*, vol. 7, 985.

The loud cry of the fourth angel is a call to the world to be a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a peculiar people, whom He calls out of darkness into His marvelous light. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9. It is an invitation to be holy as He is holy, to be perfect as His Father in heaven is perfect. See 1 Peter 1:16; Matthew 5:48.

God Will Take the Reins

Undoubtedly, this other angel, which is often referred to as the fourth angel, represents God's final generation effectively giving the messages of the three angels to the whole world. The fact that this fourth angel is depicted as not just flying in the midst of heaven, but coming "down from heaven," represents the great power of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain.

As we have studied, because of persistent rebellion against the Lord's directives and failure to fully understand and internalize the three angels messages, God has been unable to use His Laodicean church to carry the everlasting Gospel of full obedience to the whole world. Because of their failure to experience not only Christ's pardoning, but also His renewing grace, they cannot fully testify to the world and to the universe of Christ's ability to save man *from* their sins.

We are told that in the finishing of the gospel commission, God will take the reins into His own hands. This hands-on-approach to His work is also represented by this fourth angel "coming down from heaven." When God takes the reins, we are told that He will use simple means, contrary to any human planning:

> Unless those who can help in ——— are aroused to a sense of their duty, they will not recognize the work of God when the loud cry of the third angel shall be heard. When light goes forth to lighten the earth, instead of coming up to the help of the Lord, they will want to bind about His work

to meet their narrow ideas. Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness. *Testimonies to Ministers*, 300.

The usurpation by man of Christ's rule in His church has indeed delayed and made the work much harder:

Men make the work of advancing the truth tenfold harder than it really is, by seeking to take God's work out of His hands into their own finite hands. They think they must be constantly inventing something to make men do things which they suppose these persons ought to do. The time thus spent is all the while making the work more complicated; for the great Chief Worker is left out of the question in the care of His own heritage. *Evangelism*, 635.

We need not despair because of the human rule that has usurped Christ's theocratic rule of His people, for where the shepherds are not true, Christ has promised to take charge Himself:

We have been inclined to think that where there are no faithful ministers there can be no true Christians, but this is not the case. God has promised that where the shepherds are not true He will take charge of the flock Himself. God has never made the flock wholly dependent upon human instrumentalities. *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 80.

Through His fully surrendered, fully obedient, purified, final generation, Christ will cut His work short in righteousness—right doing:

Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant

shall be saved: For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth. Romans 9:27–28.

God will manifest Himself Master of the situation:

> There will be a series of events revealing that God is Master of the situation. Ibid., vol. 9, 96.

If those in responsible positions do not bear an appropriate message for this time, God will raise up other messengers:

> The Lord will raise up men to bear the message of truth to the world and to His people. If those in responsible positions do not move onward in the opening providences of God, bearing an appropriate message for this time, the words of warning will be given to others who will be faithful to their trust. Even youthful Christians will be chosen to "cry aloud and spare not." *The Sabbath-School Worker*, April 1, 1892.

Those Not Insensible to Light

Humble men and women, still sensitive to truth, and even children will be impelled to give the message:

> God will move upon men of humble position in society, men who have not become insensible to the bright rays of light through so long contemplating the light of truth, and refusing to make any improvement or advancement therein. Many such will be seen hurrying hither and thither, constrained by the Spirit of God to bring the light to others. The truth, the Word of God, is as a fire in their bones, filling them with a burning desire to enlighten those who sit in darkness. Many, even among the uneducated, now proclaim the words of the Lord. Children are impelled by the Spirit to go forth and declare the message from Heaven. *Review and Herald*, July 23, 1895.

The Lord often works contrary to the ideas of church leadership, and uses those who will be molded by His counsels:

> The Lord often works in a manner which is not in accor-

dance with the ideas of the men who are in responsible positions. The speculations and calculations of human minds are not always in [the] wisdom of God. . . . His plans are not built on any foundation that is laid by man, but as the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, He lays the foundation, and erects the structure, in lofty independence through those who will be worked by Him. The Lord Jesus takes those that He finds will be molded and uses them for His own name's glory, to meet His own spiritual conception. *Spalding and Magan Collection*, 65.

Those in the church who obstruct the channels God chooses will have an account to settle with Him:

But when God speaks to men, commanding them to bear His message to the people, it means something. Those who are commanded to bear a message must move out although obstacles of a forbidding character are in the way. Those who claim to know the truth, and yet lay every obstacle in the way so that light shall not come to the people, will have an account to settle with God that they will not be pleased to meet. God manages His own work, and woe to the man who puts his hand to the ark of God. *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, 1032.

Casting Off Human Restrictions

In the loud cry of the fourth angel, the final generation will cast off all human restrictions in their giving of Christ's final message to the world:

Satan has laid every measure possible that nothing shall come among us as a people to reprove and rebuke us, and exhort us to put away our errors. But there is a people who will bear the ark of God. Some will go out from among us who will bear the ark no longer. But these cannot make walls to obstruct the truth; for it will go onward and upward to the end. In the past God has raised up men, and He still has men of opportunity waiting, prepared to do His bidding—men who will go through restrictions which are only as walls daubed with untempered mortar. When God puts His Spirit upon

men, they will work. They will proclaim the word of the Lord; they will lift up their voice like a trumpet. The truth will not be diminished or lose its power in their hands. They will show the people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins. *Testimonies to Ministers*, 411.

Under the showers of the latter rain the inventions of man, the human machinery, will at times be swept away, the boundary of man's authority will be as broken reeds, and the Holy Spirit will speak through the living, human agent with convincing power. No one then will watch to see if the sentences are well rounded off, if the grammar is faultless. The living water will flow in God's own channels. *The Paulson Collection*, 102.

The Spirit is poured out upon all who will yield to its promptings, and, casting off all man's machinery, his binding rules and cautious methods, they will declare the truth with the might of the Spirit's power. *Review and Herald*, July 23, 1895.

Humble, obedient laborers will travel from city to city and country to country with great success:

When the church is awakened, decided changes will be made. Men and women will be converted, and so filled will they be by the Spirit of God that they will pass from country to country, from city to city, proclaiming the message of truth. With hearts filled with earnest love for souls, they will open their Bibles and present the word, "It is written." Wherever they go a people will be raised up to stand in the day of the Lord. The simplicity of these humble workers will be their strength; for angels of God work with those who are humble and obedient. Learned, eloquent men will not see the results from their work that are seen by these humble, zealous, praying men. *Manuscript Releases No. 311*, 45–46.

We are told that the loud cry of the fourth angel will largely be accomplished through publications:

And in a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes

down from heaven with great power and who lightens the earth with his glory. *The Publishing Ministry*, 50.

Light Through Unexpected Sources

We must be careful not to reject light because it does not come through expected channels:

> We should be ready to accept light from God from whatever source it may come, instead of rejecting it because it does not come through the channel from which we expected it. *Review and Herald*, August 27, 1889.

With the message of the fourth angel we have been promised "additional light." We are told that it could very well come in unexpected ways:

> I did not desire to definitely state these particulars in the Conference for the delegates to garble and misconstrue; but I said enough in regard to what the Lord had been pleased to show me. I stated that . . . there was to be special light for God's people as they neared the closing scenes of this earth's history. Another angel was to come from heaven with a message and the whole earth was to be lightened with his glory. It would be impossible for us to state just how this additional light would come. It might come in a very unexpected manner, in a way that would not agree with the ideas that many have conceived. It is not at all unlikely, or contrary to the ways and works of God to send light to His people in unexpected ways. *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, 239.

We have been cautioned that many of us will tend to condemn the latter rain as fanaticism:

> The baptism of the Holy Ghost as on the day of Pentecost will lead to a revival of true religion and to the performance of many wonderful works. Heavenly intelligences will come among us, and men will speak as they are moved upon by the Holy Spirit of God. But should the Lord work upon men as He did on and after the day of Pentecost, many who now claim to believe the truth would know so very little of

the operation of the Holy Spirit that they would cry, "Beware of fanaticism." *Selected Messages*, book 2, 57.

We are to use every possible means to expose error:

> Let every power that God has entrusted to His agencies be now employed. Restrict no one's labor, in any line if they are established in the truth, but let all work who will.
>
> The great apostasy is working to a point, and will develop into darkness deep as midnight, impenetrable as sackcloth of hair. This is the time to employ any system that can be devised to discover and counteract the leaven of error. Let there be light. *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, 382.

We are told that there will be a sanctified ministry and press in the final work of the third angel. We are warned not to complain of those who seem to talk too strongly:

> A sanctified ministry and press will be a power in flashing the light of truth on this untoward generation. . . . Victory will attend the third angel's message. As the Captain of the Lord's host tore down the walls of Jericho, so will the Lord's commandment-keeping people triumph, and all opposing elements be defeated. Let no soul complain of the servants of God who have come to them with a Heaven-sent message. Do not any longer pick flaws in them, saying, "They are too positive; they talk too strongly." They may talk strongly; but is it not needed? God will make the ears of the hearers tingle if they will not heed His voice or His message. He will denounce those who resist the Word of God. *Testimonies to Ministers*, 410.

Taking Our Crowns

Eleventh-hour workers will come in and take the crown of those who have not appreciated the whole counsel of God:

> But God will not be left without witness. The one-hour laborers will be brought in at the eleventh hour, and will consecrate their ability and all their entrusted means to advance the work. These will receive the reward for their faithfulness, because they are true to principle, and shun not their duty to

declare the whole counsel of God. When those who have had abundance of light throw off the restraint which the Word of God imposes, and make void His law, others will come in to fill their place, and take their crown. *The General Conference Bulletin*, January 1, 1900.

Those in other denominations living up to all known light will come in while light-rejecting Seventh-day Adventists will leave:

Many souls will come from other denominational churches, and at the eleventh hour will obey all the truth, because they have not set themselves in array against Heaven's light, but lived up to all the light they had: while those who have had great light, large privileges and opportunities, and have failed to live in the light and walk in the light, will drop out by the way. Their light will shine less and less until their lamps will go out, for the want of the oil of grace in their vessels with their lamps. *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, 710.

Many will change sides in the conflict. Only those obedient to the Scriptures and to the Testimony of Jesus are on Christ's side:

In vision I saw two armies in terrible conflict. One army was led by banners bearing the world's insignia; the other was led by the bloodstained banner of Prince Immanuel. Standard after standard was left to trail in the dust as company after company from the Lord's army joined the foe and tribe after tribe from the ranks of the enemy united with the commandment-keeping people of God. An angel flying in the midst of heaven put the standard of Immanuel into many hands, while a mighty general cried out with a loud voice: "Come into line. Let those who are loyal to the commandments of God and the testimony of Christ now take their position." *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 41.

God Alone Glorified

We are humbled as we contemplate the latter-rain working of the Lord. He will finish His work in such a manner that only He will be glorified:

There will be an accumulation of divine agencies to combine with human effort that there may be the accomplishment of the work for the last time. The work will most assuredly be cut short in a most unexpected manner. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and no one will be able to say when the movings of God's Spirit will be realized or what direction or through whom it will manifest itself. But I speak not my own words when I say it will pass by those who have had their test and opportunity and have not distinguished the voice of God or appreciated the movings of His Spirit. There will be thousands converted to the truth in a day, who at the eleventh hour see and acknowledge the truth and the movements of the Spirit of God. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed." Amos 9:13.

The accessions to the truth will be of a rapidity which will surprise the church. God's name alone will be glorified. *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, 754–755.

The closing work of the final generation in the loud cry of the fourth angel will not be so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Holy Spirit:

Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works, with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Revelation 13:13. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.

The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedi-

ence. Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. Truth is more precious than all besides. Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side. *The Great Controversy,* 612.

Gospel Commission Completed

Yes, the gospel truth will be preached into all the world:

The truth will be proclaimed in clear, unmistakable language. As a people we must prepare the way of the Lord under the overruling guidance of the Holy Spirit. The gospel is to be given in its purity. The stream of living water is to deepen and widen in its course. . . . Through most wonderful workings of divine providence, mountains of difficulty will be removed and cast into the sea. The message that means so much to the dwellers upon the earth will be heard and understood. Men will know what is truth. Onward and still onward the work will advance until the whole earth shall have been warned, and then shall the end come. *Testimonies,* vol. 9, 96.

The message of the renewing power of God's grace will belt the world:

The message of the renewing power of God's grace will be carried to every country and clime, until the truth shall belt the world. Of the number of them that shall be sealed will be those who have come from every nation and kindred and tongue and people. From every country will be gathered men and women who will stand before the throne of God and before the Lamb, crying, "Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb." Revelation 7:10. *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 532.

The cry of the fourth angel will reach everywhere:

The light that was shed upon the waiting ones penetrated everywhere, and those in the churches who had any light,

who had not heard and rejected the three messages, obeyed the call and left the fallen churches. Many had come to years of accountability since these messages had been given, and the light shone upon them, and they were privileged to choose life or death. Some chose life and took their stand with those who were looking for their Lord and keeping all His commandments. The third message was to do its work; all were to be tested upon it, and the precious ones were to be called out from the religious bodies. A compelling power moved the honest, while the manifestation of the power of God brought a fear and restraint upon their unbelieving relatives and friends so that they dared not, neither had they the power to, hinder those who felt the work of the Spirit of God upon them. The last call was carried even to the poor slaves, and the pious among them poured forth their songs of rapturous joy at the prospect of their happy deliverance. Their masters could not check them; fear and astonishment kept them silent. Mighty miracles were wrought, the sick were healed, and signs and wonders followed the believers. God was in the work, and every saint, fearless of consequences, followed the convictions of his own conscience and united with those who were keeping all the commandments of God; and with power they sounded abroad the third message. I saw that this message will close with power and strength far exceeding the midnight cry. *Early Writings*, 278.

The end will come, once Christ's gospel of pardoning and renewing grace is given to the whole world:

> And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. Matthew 24:14.

Probation Closes

When all have had the opportunity to know and experience the everlasting Gospel, when all of "whosoever will" have drunk "of the water of life freely," the final atonement will be completed, the number of Christ's subjects will be made up, their sins will be blotted out,

Christ ceases His intercession, and probation is closed:

> When the third angel's message closes, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth. The people of God have accomplished their work. They have received "the latter rain," "the refreshing from the presence of the Lord," and they are prepared for the trying hour before them. Angels are hastening to and fro in heaven. An angel returning from the earth announces that his work is done; the final test has been brought upon the world, and all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received "the seal of the living God." Then Jesus ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above. He lifts His hands and with a loud voice says, "It is done;" and all the angelic host lay off their crowns as He makes the solemn announcement: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." Revelation 22:11. Every case has been decided for life or death. Christ has made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The number of His subjects is made up; "the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven," is about to be given to the heirs of salvation, and Jesus is to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. *The Great Controversy*, 613–614.

We are not to speculate as to whether or not there is a specific number of redeemed which must be made up before probation closes:

> Another question upon which we had some conversation was in regard to the elect of God—that the Lord would have a certain number, and when that number was made up then probation would cease. These are questions you or I have no right to talk about. The Lord Jesus will receive all who come unto Him. He died for the ungodly and every man who will come, may come. *Selected Messages*, book 3, 315.

The sealing of the final generation is progressive. As we have noted, it begins with the faithful of the House of God. As they experience the latter rain and give the loud cry of the fourth angel they are joined by

the other faithful from Babylon. These eleventh-hour workers become part of the final generation—the fourth angel. During the loud cry of the fourth angel, the number of subjects of the final generation will be in a state of flux. All who are faithful prior to the general close of probation will be sealed *unto life eternal* but not necessarily *unto translation without seeing death*. The sealed participants in the loud cry will experience persecution in which there will be many martyrs:

> Many will be imprisoned, many will flee for their lives from cities and towns, and many will be martyrs for Christ's sake in standing in defense of the truth. Ibid., 397.

Many of the faithful, including many children, will be laid to rest:

> It is not always safe to ask for unconditional healing. . . . He knows whether or not those for whom petitions are offered would be able to endure the trial and test that would come upon them if they lived. He knows the end from the beginning. Many will be laid away to sleep before the fiery ordeal of the time of trouble shall come upon our world.
>
> The Lord has often instructed me that many little ones are to be laid away before the time of trouble. *Last Day Events*, 255.

The Hundred and Forty-four Thousand

With the general close of probation, when Christ stands up and proclaims that it is finished, the final number of the final generation will be complete. These final faithful have been sealed not only unto life eternal but unto translation without seeing death. These final faithful are now the 144,000. It would seem, that because of the "many martyrs," the "many faithful laid to rest," and the entrance in of the "eleventh hour workers" from Babylon, that the original number sealed of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is not fully synonymous with the 144,000. We are, however, also not to enter into controversy over who is to compose this select group:

> It is not His plan that His people shall present something which they have to suppose, which is not taught in the Word. It is not His will that they shall get into controversy over questions which will not help them spiritually, such as, Who is to

compose the hundred and forty-four thousand. This those who are the elect of God will in a short time know without question. *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary: Ellen G. White Comments*, vol. 7, 978.

These final faithful of the final generation who have participated in the giving of the loud cry of the fourth angel, and have, unknown to man, come to the general close of probation, are indeed a special group. They have remained faithful to Christ their Leader during the most troublous of times. Let us innumerate some of the circumstances of their past and/or future experience:

1.—Of themselves, they are the weakest of the weak:

If the race had ceased to fall when Adam was driven from Eden, we should now be in a far more elevated condition physically, mentally, and morally. . . . Would that man had stopped falling with Adam. But there has been a succession of falls." Ibid., vol. 1, 1082.

"Through Satan's devices, each generation was becoming more feeble in physical, mental, and moral power." *Review and Herald*, March 3, 1874.

The present generation have less power of self-control than had those who lived then ["several generations ago"]. *Counsels on Health*, 125.

2.—By God's grace, they have remained faithful under the attack of the most powerful deceptions and temptations of any age:

Satan has the same power and the same control over minds now [as when in heaven], only it has increased a hundred-fold by exercise and experience. *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 328.

For six thousand years that mastermind that once was highest among the angels of God has been wholly bent to the work of deception and ruin. And all the depths of satanic skill and subtlety acquired, all the cruelty developed, during these struggles of the ages, will be brought to bear against God's people in the final conflict. *The Great Controversy*, ix.4.

Because of the increasing power of Satan's temptations, the times in which we live are full of peril for the children of God. *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 322.

Satan "works with all deceivableness of unrighteousness" to gain control of the children of men, and his deceptions will continually increase. *The Great Controversy,* 560.

I have been shown that Satan has not been stupid and careless these many years, since his fall, but has been learning. He has grown more artful. His plans are laid deeper, and are more covered with a religious garment to hide their deformity. The power of Satan now to tempt and deceive is ten-fold greater than it was in the days of the apostles. His power has increased, and it will increase, until it is taken away. *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 2, 277.

The continual transgression of man for six thousand years has brought sickness, pain, and death as its fruits. And as we near the close of time, Satan's temptation to indulge appetite will be more powerful and more difficult to overcome. *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 491–492.

A cunning and cruel foe attends our steps, and is working every moment, with all his strength and skill, to turn us from the right way. . . . More than six thousand years of continual practice has greatly increased his skill to deceive and allure. On the other hand, he who once yields to temptation becomes spiritually weak, and yields more readily the second time. Every repetition of sin blinds his eyes, stifles conviction, and weakens his power of resistance. *Thus while the power of the human race to resist temptation is continually decreasing, Satan's skill and power to tempt are continually increasing.* This is one great reason why the temptations of the last days will be *more severe than those of any other age*. *Historical Sketches*, 133.

3.—They—the weakest of the weak—will allow Christ to demonstrate unarguably, that fallen man, united with divinity,

is stronger than the strong man armed:

It is as true now as when Christ was upon the earth, that every inroad made by the gospel upon the enemy's dominion is met by fierce opposition from his vast armies. The conflict that is right upon us will be the most terrible ever witnessed. But though Satan is represented as being as strong as the strong man armed, his overthrow will be complete, and everyone who unites with him in choosing apostasy rather than loyalty will perish with him. *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 407.

When Christ takes possession of the citadel of the soul, the human agent becomes one with Him. And he who is one with Christ, maintaining His unity, enthroning Him in the heart, and obeying His commands, is safe from the snares of the wicked one. United to Christ, he gathers to himself the graces of Christ, and consecrates strength and efficiency and power to the Lord in winning souls to Him. By cooperation with the Saviour he becomes the instrument through which God works. Then when Satan comes, and strives to take possession of the soul, he finds that Christ has made him *stronger than the strong man armed. Review and Herald*, December 12, 1899.

4.—They—the weakest of the weak but by Christ's transforming grace made stronger than the strong man armed—will have allowed God to demonstrate that sin—transgression of His laws—by any previous being or generation, has truly been inexcusable:

Sin is a mysterious, unexplainable thing. There was no reason for its existence; to seek to explain it is to seek to give a reason for it, and that would be to justify it. Sin appeared in a perfect universe, a thing that was shown to be inexcusable and exceeding sinful. The reason of its inception or development was never explained and never can be, even at the last great day when the judgment shall sit and the books be opened, when every man shall be judged according to the deeds done in the body, when the sins of God's repentant, sanctified people shall be heaped upon the scapegoat, the originator of sin. At

that day it will be evident to all that there is not, and never was, any cause for sin. At the final condemnation of Satan and his angels and of all men who have finally identified themselves with him as transgressors of God's law, every mouth will be stopped. When the hosts of rebellion, from the first great rebel to the last transgressor, are asked why they have broken the law of God, they will be speechless. There will be no answer to give, no reason to assign that will carry the least weight. *Signs of the Times*, April 28, 1890.

5.—They will have gained full victory over perverted appetite. They will not gratify taste to the harm of their physical, intellectual, or moral health. These final faithful will have given up flesh foods in their preparation for translation:

Grains and fruits prepared free from grease, and in as natural a condition as possible, should be the food for the tables of all who claim to be preparing for translation to heaven. The less feverish the diet, the more easily can the passions be controlled. Gratification of taste should not be consulted irrespective of physical, intellectual, or moral health. *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 63.

Among those who are waiting for the coming of the Lord, meat eating will eventually be done away; flesh will cease to form a part of their diet. Ibid., 380–381.

6.—They will have, as God has opened the way, moved into the country:

Before the overflowing scourge shall come upon the dwellers of the earth, the Lord calls upon all who are Israelites indeed to prepare for that event. To parents He sends the warning cry: Gather your children into your own houses; gather them away from those who are disregarding the commandments of God, who are teaching and practicing evil. Get out of the large cities as fast as possible.

Parents can secure small homes in the country, with land for cultivation, where they can have orchards and where they can raise vegetables and small fruits to take the place of flesh

meat, which is so corrupting to the lifeblood coursing through the veins. On such places the children will not be surrounded with the corrupting influences of city life. God will help His people to find such homes outside of the cities. *Adventist Home*, 139–140.

7.—During their labors for God, they will witness flattering monuments of man's greatness crumbled in the dust:

The time is right upon us when there will be sorrow in the world that no human balm can heal. Even before the last great destruction comes upon the world, the flattering monuments of man's greatness will be crumbled in the dust. God's retributive judgments will fall on those who in the face of great light have continued in sin. Costly buildings, supposed to be fireproof, are erected. But as Sodom perished in the flames of God's vengeance, so will these proud structures become ashes. I have seen vessels which cost immense sums of money wrestling with the mighty ocean, seeking to breast the angry billows. But with all their treasures of gold and silver, and with all their human freight, they sank into a watery grave. . . . But amid the tumult of excitement, with confusion in every place, there is a work to be done for God in the world. *Maranatha*, 175.

8.—They will have understood the enforcement of Sunday laws in the United States as the last opportunity to flee the large cities, and time to prepare to leave the smaller ones for secluded homes in the mountains:

The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation in the decree enforcing the papal sabbath will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains. *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 464–465.

9.—By remaining faithful to God, they will have refused to accept the mark of the beast with its control of who can buy and who can sell:

This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed. All who prove their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living God. Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin, and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast. *Maranatha*, 164.

In the last great conflict in the controversy with Satan those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off. Because they refuse to break His law in obedience to earthly powers they will be forbidden to buy or sell.

Satan says . . . "For fear of wanting food and clothing they will join with the world in transgressing God's law. The earth will be wholly under my dominion." *Last Day Events*, 148–149.

10.–They will have remained faithful during Satan's worldwide, masterpiece deception of spiritualism:

Satan has long been preparing for his final effort to deceive the world. The foundation of his work was laid by the assurance given to Eve in Eden: "Ye shall not surely die." "In the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:4, 5. Little by little he has prepared the way for his masterpiece of deception in the development of spiritualism. He has not yet reached the full accomplishment of his designs; but it will be reached in the last remnant of time. Says the prophet: "I saw three unclean spirits like frogs; . . . they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Revelation 16:13, 14. Except those who are kept by the power of God, through faith in His Word, the whole world will be swept into the ranks of this delusion. The people are fast being lulled to a fatal secu-

rity, to be awakened only by the outpouring of the wrath of God. *The Great Controversy*, 561–562.

11.–They will have refused to worship Satan in his crowning act of deception in the personation of Christ:

As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. Revelation 1:13–15. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: "Christ has come! Christ has come!" The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed. He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth. This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion. Ibid., 624.

12.–As the 144,000, they will survive by faith alone through the time of Jacob's trouble with its blowing of the four winds, the outpouring of the seven last plagues, and its death decree against the faithful:

The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God. Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying and giving in marriage. Mer-

chants are still buying and selling. . . . Pleasure lovers are still crowding to theaters, horse races, gambling hells. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation's hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agents to work, that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied, and entranced, until the day of probation shall be ended and the door of mercy be forever shut. The time is right upon us when there will be sorrow that no human balm can heal. Sentinel angels are now restraining the four winds, that they shall not blow till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads; but when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be a scene of strife such as no pen can picture. *In Heavenly Places*, 342.

Soon God will show that He is indeed the living God. He will say to the angels, "No longer combat Satan in his efforts to destroy. Let him work out his malignity upon the children of disobedience; for the cup of their iniquity is full. They have advanced from one degree of wickedness to another, adding daily to their lawlessness. I will no longer interfere to prevent the destroyer from doing his work." *Review and Herald*, September 17, 1901.

I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus' work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues. These plagues enraged the wicked against the righteous; they thought that we had brought the judgments of God upon them, and that if they could rid the earth of us, the plagues would then be stayed. A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance. This was the time of Jacob's trouble. *Early Writings*, 36–37.

Jacob's experience during that night of wrestling and anguish represents the trial through which the people of God must pass just before Christ's second coming. The prophet Jeremiah, in holy vision looking down to this time, said, "We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. . . .

All faces are turned into paleness. Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it." Jeremiah 30:5–7.

When Christ shall cease His work as mediator in man's behalf, then this time of trouble will begin. Then the case of every soul will have been decided, and there will be no atoning blood to cleanse from sin. When Jesus leaves His position as man's intercessor before God, the solemn announcement is made, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." Revelation 22:11. Then the restraining Spirit of God is withdrawn from the earth. As Jacob was threatened with death by his angry brother, so the people of God will be in peril from the wicked who are seeking to destroy them. And as the patriarch wrestled all night for deliverance from the hand of Esau, so the righteous will cry to God day and night for deliverance from the enemies that surround them. *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 201.

13.–With the voice of God's deliverance at midnight, this final generation of the fourth angel's message—the 144,000—will know that they have stood faithfully against the Dragon's roar without a Mediator in the heavenly sanctuary and that their deliverance is assured:

The despised remnant are clothed in glorious apparel, nevermore to be defiled by the corruptions of the world. Their names are retained in the Lamb's book of life, enrolled among the faithful of all ages. They have resisted the wiles of the deceiver; they have not been turned from their loyalty by the dragon's roar. Now they are eternally secure from the tempter's devices. *Lift Him Up*, 377.

It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people. The sun appears, shining in its strength. Signs and wonders follow in quick succession. The wicked look with terror and amazement upon the scene, while the righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance. Everything in nature seems turned out of its course.

The streams cease to flow. Dark, heavy clouds come up and clash against each other. In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying: "It is done." Revelation 16:17.

That voice shakes the heavens and the earth. There is a mighty earthquake, "such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great." Verses 17, 18. . . . Prison walls are rent asunder, and God's people, who have been held in bondage for their faith, are set free. . . .

Through a rift in the clouds there beams a star whose brilliancy is increased fourfold in contrast with the darkness. It speaks hope and joy to the faithful, but severity and wrath to the transgressors of God's law. Those who have sacrificed all for Christ are now secure, hidden as in the secret of the Lord's pavilion. They have been tested, and before the world and the despisers of truth they have evinced their fidelity to Him who died for them. A marvelous change has come over those who have held fast their integrity in the very face of death. They have been suddenly delivered from the dark and terrible tyranny of men transformed to demons. Their faces, so lately pale, anxious, and haggard, are now aglow with wonder, faith, and love. Their voices rise in triumphant song: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof." Psalm 46:1–3. . . .

The voice of God is heard from heaven, declaring the day and hour of Jesus' coming, and delivering the everlasting covenant to His people. Like peals of loudest thunder His words roll through the earth. The Israel of God stand listening, with their eyes fixed upward. Their countenances are lighted up with His glory, and shine as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked cannot look upon them. And when the blessing is pronounced on those who have honored God by keeping His Sabbath holy, there is

a mighty shout of victory. *The Great Controversy*, 636–640.

14.–This now delivered, final, living generation of the remnant will behold Christ come in all of His glory:

Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the size of a man's hand. It is the cloud which surrounds the Saviour and which seems in the distance to be shrouded in darkness. The people of God know this to be the sign of the Son of man. In solemn silence they gaze upon it as it draws nearer the earth, becoming lighter and more glorious, until it is a great white cloud, its base a glory like consuming fire, and above it the rainbow of the covenant. Jesus rides forth as a mighty conqueror. Not now a "Man of Sorrows," to drink the bitter cup of shame and woe, He comes, victor in heaven and earth, to judge the living and the dead. "Faithful and True," "in righteousness He doth judge and make war." And "the armies which were in heaven" (Revelation 19:11, 14) follow Him. With anthems of celestial melody the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng, attend Him on His way. The firmament seems filled with radiant forms—"ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands." No human pen can portray the scene; no mortal mind is adequate to conceive its splendor. "His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. And His brightness was as the light." Habakkuk 3:3, 4. As the living cloud comes still nearer, every eye beholds the Prince of life. No crown of thorns now mars that sacred head; but a diadem of glory rests on His holy brow. His countenance outshines the dazzling brightness of the noonday sun. "And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, King of kings, and Lord of lords." Revelation 19:16.

Before His presence "all faces are turned into paleness;" upon the rejecters of God's mercy falls the terror of eternal despair. "The heart melteth, and the knees smite together, . . . and the faces of them all gather blackness." Jeremiah 30:6; Nahum 2:10. The righteous cry with trembling: "Who shall be able to stand?" The angels' song is hushed, and there is a period of awful silence. Then the voice of Jesus is heard, saying: "My grace is sufficient for you." The faces of the righteous are

lighted up, and joy fills every heart. And the angels strike a note higher and sing again as they draw still nearer to the earth.

The King of kings descends upon the cloud, wrapped in flaming fire. The heavens are rolled together as a scroll, the earth trembles before Him, and every mountain and island is moved out of its place. "Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people." Psalm 50:3, 4. . . .

Amid the reeling of the earth, the flash of lightning, and the roar of thunder, the voice of the Son of God calls forth the sleeping saints. He looks upon the graves of the righteous, then, raising His hands to heaven, He cries: "Awake, awake, awake, ye that sleep in the dust, and arise!" Throughout the length and breadth of the earth the dead shall hear that voice, and they that hear shall live. And the whole earth shall ring with the tread of the exceeding great army of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. From the prison house of death they come, clothed with immortal glory, crying: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" 1 Corinthians 15:55. And the living righteous and the risen saints unite their voices in a long, glad shout of victory. . . .

The living righteous are changed "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye." At the voice of God they were glorified; now they are made immortal and with the risen saints are caught up to meet their Lord in the air. Angels "gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Little children are borne by holy angels to their mothers' arms. Friends long separated by death are united, nevermore to part, and with songs of gladness ascend together to the City of God. Ibid., 640–645.

15.–God's Final Generation—the 144,000—will receive special honor throughout eternity:

Upon the crystal sea before the throne, that sea of glass as it were mingled with fire—so resplendent is it with the glory of God—are gathered the company that have "gotten

the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name." With the Lamb upon Mount Zion, "having the harps of God," they stand, the hundred and forty and four thousand that were redeemed from among men; and there is heard, as the sound of many waters, and as the sound of a great thunder, "the voice of harpers harping with their harps." And they sing "a new song" before the throne, a song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand. It is the song of Moses and the Lamb—a song of deliverance. None but the hundred and forty-four thousand can learn that song; for it is the song of their experience—an experience such as no other company have ever had. "These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth." These, having been translated from the earth, from among the living, are counted as "the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb." Revelation 15:2, 3; 14:1–5. "These are they which came out of great tribulation;" they have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation; they have endured the anguish of the time of Jacob's trouble; they have stood without an intercessor through the final outpouring of God's judgments. But they have been delivered, for they have "washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." "In their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault" before God. "Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them." They have seen the earth wasted with famine and pestilence, the sun having power to scorch men with great heat, and they themselves have endured suffering, hunger, and thirst. But "they shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Revelation 7:14–17. Ibid., 648–649.

Chapter Seven

Summary and Conclusions

GLORIOUS WILL BE the experience of the final generation! Because of their love for the truth, the final generation, by God's grace, have yielded themselves fully to His will as communicated through the Scriptures and the Testimony of Jesus. In the final great battle of Armageddon they have been victorious over Satan's perfected deceptions and cunning evil. When Satan's power to deceive has been the greatest, they have demonstrated that God's grace is indeed sufficient to overcome every wile of the devil. Yes, Christ vindicated the Father's character and His law by His personal life of victory over all temptation two thousand years ago. But Christ must also vindicate the father's character, government, and eternal law by living out His life of perfect obedience in the lives of His final generation. Their life of complete obedience has made them a witness of the effectiveness of Christ's transforming grace and by the Holy Spirit's power has enabled them to give the loud cry of the fourth angel—earth's final warning—to the whole world. By their victory over all temptations when Satan's temptations are the most severe, this weakest-of-the-weak generation being made stronger than the strong man armed, have removed any purported excuse for sin by any person or other generation. By their victory over sin, they have enabled Christ to not only cleanse them, His earthly sanctuary, but also to cleanse the records in the Heavenly sanctuary of the repented-of-sins of the ages. By allowing Christ to reproduce His character in their lives, the final generation has allowed Christ to say "It is finished," and to return to this earth to take the saints of all ages to their heavenly promised land.

Generations Disappointed

Every generation of Adventists since 1844 have looked forward to, and have had the opportunity to be in, this most favored group of all saints— the final generation—the 144,000. Tragically, because of our insubordination, we have had to remain in this earth "many more

years." In 2003, the Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated 140 years of church organization. It has not been the opposition from the world that has kept us in this earth these many years. It is opposition from within that has delayed the sealing of God's final generation, the latter rain, the loud cry of the fourth angel, and Christ's return to this earth:

> It is not the opposition of the world that we have to fear; but it is the elements that work among ourselves that have hindered the message. . . .
>
> The work of opponents to the truth has been steadily advancing while we have been compelled to devote our energies in a great degree to counteracting the work of the enemy through those who were in our ranks. The dullness of some and the opposition of others have confined our strength and means largely among those who know the truth, but do not practice its principles. If every soldier of Christ had done his duty, if every watchman on the walls of Zion had given the trumpet a certain sound, the world might ere this have heard the message of warning. But the work is years behind. What account will be rendered to God for thus retarding the work? *General Conference Daily Bulletin*, February 28, 1893.

It is our unholy disobedience like ancient Israel that made it necessary for the angel ascending from the East, to tell the four angels to hold the winds of strife from blowing upon the earth. The disobedience of God's people thus delayed the sealing time:

> Had the people of God believed Him and been doers of His Word, had they kept His commandments, the angel would not have come flying through heaven with the message to the four angels that were to let loose the winds that they should blow upon the earth crying, Hold, hold the four winds that they blow not upon the earth until I have sealed the servants of God in their foreheads. But because the people are disobedient, unthankful, unholy, as were ancient Israel, time is prolonged that all may hear the last message of mercy proclaimed with a loud voice. The Lord's work has been hindered, the sealing time delayed.—Letter 106, 1897. *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 15, 292–293.

Yes, we are repeating the experience of ancient Israel:

> We want to understand the time in which we live. We do not half understand it. We do not half take it in. My heart trembles in me when I think of what a foe we have to meet, and how poorly we are prepared to meet him. The trials of the children of Israel, and their attitude just before the first coming of Christ, have been presented before me again and again to illustrate the position of the people of God in their experience before the second coming of Christ—how the enemy sought every occasion to take control of the minds of the Jews, and today he is seeking to blind the minds of God's servants, that they may not be able to discern the precious truth. *Selected Messages*, book 1, 406.

We have actually done worse than they, because we have failed to learn from their experience, and while their entrance into the earthly promised land was delayed only 40 years, our entrance into the Heavenly promised land has been delayed now these 150 years:

> I saw many who profess to believe the truth for these last days, think it strange that the children of Israel murmured as they journeyed, and after the wonderful dealings of God to them, should be so ungrateful, and forget what God had done for them. Said the angel, "*Ye have done worse than they.*" I saw that God has given His servants the truth so clear, so plain, that it cannot be resisted. Every where they go they have certain victory. The enemies cannot get round the convincing truth. Light has been shed so clear that the servants of God can stand up anywhere and let truth, clear and connected, bear away the victory. This great blessing has not been prized, has not been realized. *Review and Herald*, January 6, 1863.

What We Must Do Now

We must engage all our powers against sin in every form, contesting every inch of ground against the deceptions of the strong man armed:

> God will test you, brethren, and some will prove to be chaff and some precious grains of wheat. Yield not to the

power of the tempter. *He will come as a strong man armed,* but give him no advantage. Nerve yourselves for duty, and dispute every inch of ground. Instead of retreating, advance; instead of becoming weak and nerveless, brace yourselves for the conflict. God calls on you to engage with all your powers against sin in every form. Put on the whole armor of God, and keep your eye steadily fixed on the Captain of your salvation; for there is danger ahead. Follow no false colors, but watch the banner of our holy faith, and be found where that waves, even though it be in the thickest of the fight. Soon the warfare will be over and the victory won, and if you are faithful you will come off more than conquerors through Him that has loved you. The glorious prize, the eternal weight of glory, will then be yours. *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 309.

We must now awake, wash our robes, and keep ourselves and our children unspotted from the world, and thus prepare for the seal of God:

Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost. . . . It is now that we must keep ourselves and our children unspotted from the world. It is now that we must wash our robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. It is now that we must overcome pride, passion, and spiritual slothfulness. It is now that we must awake and make determined effort for symmetry of character. . . . The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God—candidates for heaven. Ibid., 214–216.

We must comprehend the urgency in giving the last warning now:

> When the storm of God's wrath breaks upon the world, it will be a terrible revelation for souls to find that their house is being swept away because it is built upon the sand. Let the warning be given them before it is too late. We should now feel the responsibility of laboring with intense earnestness to impart to others the truths that God has given for this time. We cannot be too much in earnest.
>
> The heart of God is moved. Souls are very precious in His sight. It was for this world that Christ wept in agony; for this world He was crucified. God gave His only-begotten Son to save sinners, and He desires us to love others as He has loved us. He desires to see those who have a knowledge of the truth imparting this knowledge to their fellow men.
>
> Now is the time for the last warning to be given. There is a special power in the presentation of the truth at the present time; but how long will it continue? Only a little while. If there was ever a crisis, it is now.
>
> All are now deciding their eternal destiny. Men need to be aroused to realize the solemnity of the time, the nearness of the day when human probation shall be ended. Decided efforts should be made to bring the message for this time prominently before the people. The third angel is to go forth with great power. Let none ignore this work or treat it as of little importance.
>
> The light we have received upon the third angel's message is the true light. The mark of the beast is exactly what it has been proclaimed to be. Not all in regard to this matter is yet understood, nor will it be understood until the unrolling of the scroll; but a most solemn work is to be accomplished in our world. The Lord's command to His servants is: "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." Isaiah 58:1. Ibid., vol. 6, 16–17.

We must arise and shine, not obscuring one ray of light, nor following human wisdom:

If ever there was a time in the history of Seventh-day Adventists when they should arise and shine, it is now. No voice should be restrained from proclaiming the third angel's message. Let none, for fear of losing prestige with the world, obscure one ray of light coming from the Source of all light.

It requires moral courage to do the work of God for these last days, but let us not be led by the spirit of human wisdom. The truth should be everything to us. Let those who want to make a name with the world go with the world. The great conflict is right at hand in which all will take sides. In it the whole Christian world will be involved. Daily, hourly, we must be actuated by the principles of the Word of God. Self must be sanctified by the principles of the righteousness, the mercy, and the love of God. *The Upward Look*, 171.

Let us take courage from the following words of the servant of the Lord as to what we must now do:

We must make up our minds that instead of matters taking a more favorable turn, wicked men, seducing teachers, will grow worse and worse, deceiving themselves and deceiving others. We may expect greater opposition than has yet been experienced. We have heard but the growling of the dragon. This will swell to a roar. We have yet to learn the significance of those words of John: "Then the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." We must now make Christ our refuge, or in the days before us our souls will be overwhelmed with darkness and despair. There is a point beyond which human help cannot avail. Every one must live by faith as he is forced into close and apparently deadly conflict with the powers of darkness. Each must stand or fall for himself. The arrows of the destroyer are about to be hurled against the faithful ones, and no earthly power can turn aside the shaft. But could our eyes be opened we could see angels of God encircling the righteous, that no harm may come upon them. We have only to trust in God, and go forward in the way of obedience, and we shall be victorious.

"Now the just shall live by faith." We must look to Jesus, study His words, pray for His Spirit. We should be more frequently alone with God in meditation and prayer. Let us pray more and talk less. We cannot trust to our own wisdom, our own experience, our own knowledge of the truth; we must be daily learners, looking to our heavenly Teacher for instruction, and then, without regard to ease, pleasure, or convenience, we must go forward, knowing that He is faithful who has called.

We should cultivate a spirit of prayer, not merely praying in our closets, at the family altar, or in public, but having our minds constantly centered on God, taking hold upon His strength, pleading for His grace, confiding in His promises. Let us put on the whole armor of righteousness, which the Captain of our salvation has prepared for us. While we realize our weakness, let us rely upon His strength, and overcome by the grace which He imparts. *Review and Herald*, August 28, 1883.

We must take courage from the promise that the final generation has nothing to fear as long as they are loyal and true, for their mighty Defender will provide all power and greatness and excellence of character:

They are before the throne enjoying the sunless splendors of eternal day, not as a scattered, feeble company, to suffer by the satanic passions of a rebellious world, expressing the sentiments, the doctrines, and the counsels of demons. Strong and terrible have become the masters of iniquity in the world under the control of Satan, but strong is the Lord God who judgeth Babylon. The just have no longer anything to fear from force or fraud as long as they are loyal and true. A mightier than the strong man armed is set for their defense. All power and greatness and excellence of character will be given to those who have believed and stood in defense of the truth, standing up and firmly defending the laws of God. *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 2, 209.

We must allow Christ's death on the cross to be made effective for us by permitting the Holy Spirit to transform our characters into the

likeness of Christ's character:

> The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. . . . It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church. *Desire of Ages*, 671.

Strive to Be Among the Final Generation

We are to strive with all our power, by looking to Christ, to be among the 144,000:

> We are to copy no human being. There is no human being wise enough to be our criterion. We are to look to the man Christ Jesus, who is complete in the perfection of righteousness and holiness. He is the author and finisher of our faith. He is the pattern Man. His experience is the measure of the experience that we are to gain. His character is our model. Let us, then, take our minds off the perplexities and the difficulties of this life, and fix them on Him, that by beholding we may be changed into His likeness. We may behold Christ to good purpose. We may safely look to Him; for He is all-wise. As we look to Him and think of Him, He will be formed within, the hope of glory.
>
> Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand. And let us do all that we can to help others to gain heaven. We are to have an intense interest in Christ Jesus; for He is our Saviour. He came to this world to be tempted in all points as we are, to prove to the universe that in this world of sin human beings can live lives that God will approve. *Review and Herald*, March 9, 1905.

We must die that we might live. It will take all to enter glory:

Then I was pointed to the glory of heaven, to the treasure laid up for the faithful. Everything was lovely and glorious. The angels would sing a lovely song, then they would cease singing and take their crowns from their heads and cast them glittering at the feet of the lovely Jesus, and with melodious voices cry, "Glory, Alleluia!" I joined with them in their songs of praise and honor to the Lamb, and every time I opened my mouth to praise Him, I felt an unutterable sense of the glory that surrounded me. It was a far more, an exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Said the angel, "The little remnant who love God and keep His commandments and are faithful to the end will enjoy this glory and ever be in the presence of Jesus and sing with the holy angels."

Then my eyes were taken from the glory, and I was pointed to the remnant on the earth. The angel said to them, "Will ye shun the seven last plagues? Will ye go to glory and enjoy all that God has prepared for those who love Him and are willing to suffer for His sake? If so, ye must die that ye may live. Get ready, get ready, get ready. Ye must have a greater preparation than ye now have, for the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate and to destroy the sinners thereof out of it. Sacrifice all to God. Lay all upon His altar—self, property, and all, a living sacrifice. It will take all to enter glory. Lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where no thief can approach or rust corrupt. Ye must be partakers of Christ's sufferings here if ye would be partakers with Him of His glory hereafter."

Heaven will be cheap enough, if we obtain it through suffering. We must deny self all along the way, die to self daily, let Jesus alone appear, and keep His glory continually in view. I saw that those who of late have embraced the truth would have to know what it is to suffer for Christ's sake, that they would have trials to pass through that would be keen and cutting, in order that they may be purified and fitted through suffering to receive the seal of the living God, pass through the time of trouble, see the King in His beauty, and dwell in the presence of God and of pure, holy angels. *Early*

Writings, 66–67.

Who we worship, what day we worship, is the great test for mankind in these closing days of earth's history. Whether we obey the Creator God and worship on His holy Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, or whether we bow the knee to Satan's false sabbath, the first day of the week, will determine the eternal destiny of all living during the loud cry of the fourth angel. If we keep the Sabbath as it should be kept, by the grace and the power of God, we will also keep the other nine commandments. May God help each of us to begin keeping the Sabbath faithfully with all our heart, mind, body and soul, so that we can receive the seal of the living God, be numbered among the 144,000, and soon stand with Jesus on the sea of glass.

May we each one be dying daily to self and allowing Christ to live out in us His life of full surrender to the Father's will. May we thus do what is within our power to break free from this Laodicean condition which has frustrated, these many years, the fulfillment of God's need for His character and laws to be vindicated by Christ in the lives of His final generation. Christ owns us by creation, and again by the purchase of His blood on Calvary's cross. He deserves the right to perfect His character in our lives. Let us not continue to refuse Him the right of displaying to the Universe the power of His transforming grace. Let us not continue to refuse Him the right of forming His final generation, whom, in their lives as well as in their words can give the three angels' messages of full obedience to the Creator God. Let us not continue to refuse Him the right of forming the final generation of first fruits by which He can give the loud cry message of the fourth angel and complete His cleansing of His sanctuary. May each one be among that group is my prayer.

Appendix A

The Last Generation

By M. L. Andreasen

THE FINAL DEMONSTRATION of what the gospel can do in and for humanity is still in the future. Christ showed the way. He took a human body, and in that body demonstrated the power of God. Men are to follow His example and prove that what God did in Christ, He can do in every human being who submits to Him. The world is awaiting this demonstration. (Rom. 8:19.) When it has been accomplished, the end will come. God will have fulfilled His plan. He will have shown Himself true and Satan a liar. His government will stand vindicated.

There is much spurious doctrine concerning holiness taught in the world today. On the one hand are those who deny the power of God to save from sin. On the other hand are those who flaunt their sanctity before men and would have us believe that they are without sin. Among the first class are not only unbelievers and skeptics but church members whose vision does not include victory over sin, but who accept a kind of compromise with sin. In the other class are such as have no just conception either of sin or of God's holiness, whose spiritual vision is so impaired that they cannot see their own shortcomings, and hence believe themselves perfect, and whose conception of religion is such that their own understanding of truth and righteousness is superior to that revealed in the Word. It is not easy to decide which is the greater error.

That the Bible inculcates holiness is indisputable. "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thess. 5:23. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Heb. 12:14. "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification." 1 Thess. 4:3. The Greek word *hagios* in its various forms is translated "sanctify," "holy," "holiness," "sanctified," "sanctification." It is the same word which is used

for the two apartments of the sanctuary, and means that which is set apart for God. A sanctified person is one who is set apart for God, whose whole life is dedicated to Him.

Forgiveness and Cleansing

The plan of salvation must of necessity include not only forgiveness of sin but complete restoration. Salvation *from* sin is more than forgiveness *of* sin. Forgiveness presupposes sin and is conditioned upon breaking with it; sanctification is separation from sin and indicates deliverance from its power and victory over it. The first is a means to neutralize the effect of sin; the second is a restoration of power for complete victory.

Sin, like some diseases, leaves man in a deplorable condition—weak, despondent, disheartened. He has little control of his mind, his will fails him, and with the best of intentions he is unable to do what he knows to be right. He feels that there is no hope. He knows that he has himself to blame, and remorse fills his soul. To his bodily ailments is added the torture of conscience. He knows that he has sinned and is to blame. Will no one take pity on him?

Then comes the gospel. The good news is preached to him. Though his sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. All is forgiven. He is "saved." What a wonderful deliverance it is! His mind is at rest. No longer does his conscience torment him. He has been forgiven. His sins are cast into the depths of the sea. His heart wells with praise to God for His mercy and goodness to him.

As a disabled ship towed to port is safe but not sound, so the man is "saved" but not sound. Repairs need to be made on the ship before it is pronounced seaworthy, and the man needs reconstruction before he is fully restored. This process of restoration is called sanctification, and includes in its finished product body, soul, and spirit. When the work is finished, the man is "holy," completely sanctified, and restored to the image of God. It is for this demonstration of what the gospel can do for a man that the world is looking.

In the Bible both the process and the finished work are spoken of as sanctification. For this reason the "brethren" are spoken of as holy and sanctified, though they have not attained to perfection. (1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Cor. 1:1; Heb. 3:1.) A glance through the Epistles to the

Corinthians will soon convince one that the saints there mentioned had their faults. Despite this, they are said to be "sanctified" and "called to be saints." The reason is that complete sanctification is not the work of a day or of a year but of a lifetime. It begins the moment a person is converted, and continues through life. Every victory hastens the process. There are few Christians who have not gained the mastery over some sin that formerly greatly annoyed them and overcame them. Many a man who has been a slave to the tobacco habit has gained the victory over the habit and rejoices in his victory. Tobacco has ceased to be a temptation. It attracts him no more. He has the victory. On that point he is sanctified. As he has been victorious over one besetment, so he is to become victorious over every sin. When the work is completed, when he has gained the victory over pride, ambition, love of the world—over all evil—he is ready for translation. He has been tried in all points. The evil one has come to him and found nothing. Satan has no more temptations for him. He has over-come them all. He stands without fault before the throne of God. Christ places His seal upon him. He is safe, and he is sound. God has finished His work in him. The demonstration of what God can do with humanity is complete.

Thus it shall be with the last generation of men living on the earth. Through them God's final demonstration of what He can do with humanity will be given. He will take the weakest of the weak, those bearing the sins of their forefathers, and in them show the power of God. They will be subjected to every temptation, but they will not yield. They will demonstrate that it is possible to live without sin—the very demonstration for which the world has been looking and for which God has been preparing. It will become evident to all that the gospel really can save to the uttermost. God is found true in His sayings.

The last year of the conflict brings the final test; but this only proves to angels and to the world that nothing that the evil one can do will shake God's chosen ones. The plagues fall, destruction is on every hand, death stares them in the face, but like Job they hold fast their integrity. Nothing can make them sin. They "keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Rev. 14:12.

Throughout the history of the world God has had His faithful ones. They have endured affliction and great tribulation. But even in the midst of Satan's buffetings they have, as the apostle Paul says, through faith "wrought righteousness." "They were stoned, they were sawn asun-

der, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth." Heb. 11:37, 38.

And in addition to this galaxy of faithful witnesses, many of whom were martyrs for their faith, God will have in the last days a remnant, a "little flock," in and through whom He will give to the universe a demonstration of His love, His power, His justice, which, if we exempt Christ's godly life on earth and His supreme sacrifice on Calvary, will be the most sweeping and conclusive demonstration of all the ages of what God can do in men.

It is in the last generation of men living on the earth that God's power unto sanctification will stand fully revealed. The demonstration of that power is God's vindication. It clears Him of any and all charges which Satan has placed against Him. In the last generation God is vindicated and Satan defeated. This may need some further amplification.

Rebellion in Heaven

The rebellion which took place in heaven and introduced sin into the universe of God must have been a fearful experience both for God and for the angels. Until this time all had been peace and harmony. Discord was unknown; only love prevailed. Then unholy ambitions stirred the heart of Lucifer. He decided that he wanted to be like the Most High. He would exalt his throne above the stars of God; he would sit "upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north." (Isa. 14:12–14.) This declaration of intent was tantamount to an attempt to depose God and usurp His place. It was a declaration of war. Where God sat, Satan would sit. God accepted the challenge.

We have no direct Biblical statement as to the means used by Satan in winning over to his side a multitude of angels. That he lied is clear. That he was a murderer from the beginning is likewise indisputable. (John 8:44.) As murder has its beginning in hatred, and as this hatred found its fruition in the killing of the Son of God on Calvary, we may believe that Satan's hatred was directed not only against God the Father, but also—and perhaps especially—against God the Son. In his rebellion Satan went further than a mere threat. He actually did set up his throne, saying boastfully, "I am a God, I sit in the seat of God." Eze. 28:2.

When Satan thus established his government in heaven, the issue was clear cut. The angels understood clearly the issue. All must take their stand for or against Satan.

In the case of rebellion there is always some grievance, real or fancied, given as the cause. Some become dissatisfied, and, failing to have matters remedied, they resort to rebellion. Those who sympathize with the rebel cause join it. The others remain loyal to the government, and must, of course, take their chance on its survival.

It apparently came to just such a pass in heaven. The result was war. "There was war in heaven: Michael and His angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels." Rev. 12:7. The outcome could have been foreseen. Satan and his angels "prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Verses 8, 9.

Though Satan was defeated, he was not destroyed. By his act of rebellion he had declared God's government at fault, and by the setting up of his own throne he had made claim to greater wisdom or justice than God. These claims are inherent in rebellion and in the establishment of another government. God could ill afford not to give Satan an opportunity to demonstrate his theories. To remove every doubt in the minds of the angels—and later of man—God must let Satan go on with his work. And so Satan was permitted to live and set up his government. For the last six thousand years he has been giving the universe a demonstration of what he will do when he has the opportunity.

Satan's Demonstration

This demonstration has been permitted to continue until now. And what a demonstration it has been! From the time Cain killed Abel there have been hatred, bloodshed, cruelty, and oppression in the earth. Virtue, goodness, and justice have suffered; vice, vileness, and corruption have triumphed. The just man has been made a prey; God's messengers have been tortured and killed; God's law has been trampled in the dust. When God sent His Son, instead of honoring Him, evil men, under the instigation of Satan, hanged Him on a tree.

Even then God did not destroy Satan. The demonstration must be completed. Only when the last events are taking place, and men are on

the point of exterminating one another, will God interfere to save His own. There will then remain no doubt in the mind of anyone that, had he the power, Satan would destroy every vestige of goodness, hurl God from the throne, murder the Son of God, and establish a kingdom of violence founded in self-seeking and cruel ambition.

What Satan has been demonstrating is really his character and the lengths to which selfish ambition will lead. In the beginning he wanted to be like God. He was dissatisfied with his position as the highest of created beings. He wanted to be God. And the demonstration has shown that when he set his mind upon this goal he would stop short of nothing to attain it. Whoever stands in the way must be put out of the way. If it be God Himself, He must be removed.

The demonstration shows that *high* position is not satisfactory to the ambitious individual. He must have the *highest*, and even then he is not satisfied. Often a person in a lowly position is tempted to believe that he would be satisfied if his position were improved. He is at least sure that he would be satisfied if he had the highest position possible. But would he? Lucifer was not. He had the highest position possible. But he was not satisfied. He wanted one still higher. He wanted to be God Himself.

In this respect the contrast between Christ and Satan is pronounced. Satan wanted to be God. He wanted it so much that he was willing to do anything to attain his goal. Christ, on the other hand, did not consider it a thing to be grasped to be like God. He voluntarily humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. He was God, and He became man. And that this was not a temporary arrangement only for the purpose of showing His willingness, is evidenced by the fact that He will ever remain man. Satan exalted himself; Christ humbled Himself. Satan wanted to become God; Christ became man. Satan wanted to sit as God on a throne; Christ, as a servant, knelt to wash the disciples' feet. The contrast is complete.

Lucifer

In heaven Lucifer had been one of the covering cherubs. (Eze. 28:14.) This refers to the two angels who in the most holy apartment of the sanctuary stood on the ark, covering the mercy seat. This was doubtless the highest office an angel could occupy, for the ark and the

mercy seat were in the immediate presence of God. These angels were the special guardians of the law. They watched over it, as it were. Lucifer was one of them.

Ezekiel 28:12 contains an interesting statement concerning Lucifer: "Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty." The meaning of the expression, "Thou sealest up the sum," is not entirely clear. The reading is capable of varied interpretations. It seems evident, however, that the intent is to show the high position and exalted privilege that were Satan's before he fell. He was a kind of prime minister, a keeper of the seal.

As in an earthly government a document or law must have the seal attached to it in order to be valid, so in God's government a seal is used. God seems to have apportioned to the angels their work, the same as He has given to man his work. One angel is in charge of the fire. (Rev. 14:18.) Another angel has charge of the waters. (Rev. 16:5.) Another has charge of "the seal of the living God." Rev. 7:2. Although, as stated above, the reading of Ezekiel 28:12 is not entirely clear, some feel justified in translating it, "Thou attacheth the seal to the ordinance." If this position is tenable, if Lucifer were prime minister and keeper of the seal, it gives an additional reason why he should wish to substitute his own mark for that of God's seal when he left his first abode.

That Satan has been very active against the law is evident. If God's law is a transcript of His character, and if this character is the very opposite of Satan's, Satan stands condemned by it. Christ and the law are one. Christ is the law lived out, the law become flesh. For this reason His life constitutes a condemnation. When Satan warred against Christ, he warred also against the law. When he hated the law he also hated Christ, Christ and the law are inseparable.

An interesting statement is found in the fortieth psalm. Christ speaking, says, "I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart." Verse 8. Though this is doubtless a poetic expression and should not be pressed too far, it is interesting, nevertheless, as an indication of the exalted position of the law. "Thy law is within My heart." A stab at the law is a stab at the heart of Christ. A stab at the heart of Christ is a stab at the law. At the cross Satan so intended. But God meant the outcome to be otherwise. The death of Christ was a tribute to the law. It immeasurably magnified the law and made it honorable. It gave men a

new vision of its sacredness and worth. If God would let His Son die; if Christ would willingly give Himself rather than abrogate the law; if it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one jot or tittle of the law to fail, how very sacred and honorable the law must be!

When Christ died on the cross He had demonstrated in His life the possibility of keeping the law. Satan had not succeeded in leading Christ into sin. Possibly he did not expect to be able to do that. But if he could have induced Christ to use His divine power to save Himself, He would have accomplished much. Had Christ done so, Satan could have claimed that this invalidated the demonstration God intended to make, namely, that it was possible for men to keep the law. As it was, Satan was defeated. But till the very last he continued the same tactics. Judas hoped Christ would free Himself, thus using His divine power to save Himself. On the cross Christ was taunted: "He saved others; Himself He cannot save." But Christ did not falter. He could have saved Himself, but He did not. Satan was baffled. He could not understand. But he knew that when Christ died without his having been able to make Him sin, his own doom was sealed. In His death Christ was victor.

But Satan did not give up. He had failed in his conflict with Christ, but he might yet succeed with men. So he went to "make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Rev. 12:17. If he could overcome them he might not be defeated.

God's Demonstration

The demonstration which God intends to make with the last generation on earth means much, both to the people and to God. Can God's law really be kept? That is a vital question. Many deny that it can be done; others glibly say it can. When the whole question of commandment keeping is considered, the problem assumes large proportions. God's law is exceedingly broad; it takes cognizance of the thoughts and intents of the heart. It judges motives as well as acts, thoughts as well as words. Commandment keeping means entire sanctification, a holy life, unswerving allegiance to right, entire separation from sin, and victory over it. Well may mortal man cry out, Who is sufficient for these things!

Yet, to produce a people that will keep the law is the task which God has set Himself and which He expects to accomplish. When the

statement and challenge are issued by Satan: "No one can keep the law. It is impossible. If there be any that can do it or that have done it, show them to me. Where are they that keep the commandments?" God will quietly answer, Here they are. "Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Rev. 14:12.

Let us say it reverently: God must meet Satan's challenge. It is not God's plan, or a part of His purpose, to subject men to tests that only a chosen few can survive. In the Garden of Eden, God subjected Adam and Eve to the lightest test conceivable. No one can say that our first parents fell because the test was too hard for them. If they fell, it was not because the test was hard or because they had not been provided with strength to resist. The temptation was not held before them constantly. Satan was not permitted to molest them everywhere. He had access to them at only one place, namely, at the tree of knowledge. That place they knew. They could stay away from it if they wanted to. Satan could not follow them everywhere. If they went where Satan was, it was because they wanted to. But even if they went there to examine the tree, they need not have remained there. They could walk away. And even if Satan offered them the fruit, they need not take it. But they took it and ate. And they ate it because they wanted to, not because they had to. They deliberately transgressed. There was no excuse. God could not have devised an easier test.

When God commands men to keep His law, it does not serve the purpose He has in mind to have only a few men keep it, just enough to show it can be done. It is not in line with God's character to pick outstanding men of strong purpose and superb training, and demonstrate through them what He can do. It is much more in harmony with His plan to make His requirements such that even the weakest need not fail, so that none can ever say that God demands that which can be done by only a few. It is for this reason that God has reserved His greatest demonstration for the last generation. This generation bears the results of accumulated sins. If any are weak, they are. If any suffer from inherited tendencies, they do. If any have an excuse because of weakness of any kind, they have. If, therefore, these can keep the commandments, there is no excuse for anyone in any other generation not doing so also.

But this is not enough. God intends in His demonstration to show,

not merely that ordinary men of the last generation can successfully pass a test such as He gave to Adam and Eve, but that they can survive a test much harder than such as falls to the lot of common men. It will be a test comparable to the one Job passed through, and approaching that which the Master underwent. It will test them to the utmost.

"Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." James 5:11. Job passed through some experiences that will be repeated in the lives of the chosen ones of the last generation. It may be well to consider them.

Job's Test

Job was a good man. God trusted him. Day by day he offered sacrifices for his sons. "It may be that my sons have sinned," he said. Job. 1:5. He was prosperous and enjoyed the blessing of God.

Then came "a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them." Verse 6. A conversation is recorded between the Lord and Satan that concerned Job. The Lord says that Job is a good man, which Satan does not deny, but urges that Job is God-fearing merely because it pays him to be so. He states that if God will take away His mercies, Job will curse God. The statement is in the form of a challenge, and God accepts it. Satan is given permission to take away Job's property and otherwise to cause him sorrow, but not to touch Job himself, Satan immediately proceeds to do what he is permitted to do. Job's property is all swept away, and his children are killed.

When this happened, "Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshiped, and said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." Job 1:20–22.

Satan is defeated, but he makes another attempt. At the next meeting with the Lord, without admitting defeat, he claims that he had not been permitted to touch Job himself. If he had, he claims, Job would have sinned. The statement is again a challenge, and God accepts it. Satan is given permission to torment Job but not to take his life. He

immediately departs on his mission.

All that the evil one can do, Satan does to Job. But Job stands fast. His wife counsels him to give up, but he does not waver. Under intense physical pain and mental anguish he remains steadfast. Again it is recorded that Job stood the test. "In all this did not Job sin with his lips." Job 2:10. Satan is defeated and does not appear any more in the book.

In the succeeding chapters in the book of Job we are given a little insight into the struggle going on in Job's mind. He is greatly perplexed. Why has all this calamity come upon Him? He is not conscious of any sin. Why, then, should God afflict him? He, of course, does not know of the challenge of Satan. Neither does he know that God is depending upon him in the crisis through which he is passing. All he knows is that out of a clear sky disaster has come upon him till he is left without family or property, and with a loathsome disease that nearly overwhelms him. He does not understand, but he retains his integrity and faith in God. This God knew he would do. This Satan said he would not do. In the challenge God won.

Humanly speaking, Job had not deserved the punishment that came to him. God Himself says it was without cause. "Thou movedst Me against him, to destroy him without cause." Job 2:3. The whole experiment can therefore be justified only by considering it as a specific test devised for a specific purpose. God wanted to silence Satan's charge that Job served God only for profit. He wanted to demonstrate that there was at least *one* man whom Satan could not control. Job suffered as a result of it, but there seemed to be no other way. A reward was afterward given him.

Job's case is recorded for a purpose. While we grant its historicity, we believe that it has also a wider meaning. God's people in the last days will pass through an experience similar to Job's. They will be tested as he was; they will have every earthly stay removed; Satan will be given permission to torment them. In addition to this the Spirit of God will be withdrawn from the earth, and the protection of earthly governments removed. God's people will be left alone to battle with the powers of darkness. They will be perplexed, as was Job. But they, as did he, will hold fast their integrity.

In the last generation God will stand vindicated. In the remnant Satan will meet his defeat. The charge that the law cannot be kept will be met and fully refuted. God will produce not only one or two who

keep His commandments, but a whole group, spoken of as the 144,000. They will reflect the image of God fully. They will have disproved Satan's accusation against the government of heaven.

God's Government on Trial

A serious situation arose in heaven when Satan made his charges against God. The accusations in reality constituted an impeachment. Many of the angels believed the charges. They ranged themselves on the side of the accuser. One third of the angels—and that must have been millions—faced God with their leader, the highest among the angels, Lucifer. It was no small crisis. It threatened the very existence of God's government. How should God deal with it?

The only way the matter could be satisfactorily settled so that no question would ever arise again, was for God to submit His case to the ordinary rules of evidence. Was, or was not, God's government just? God said it was; Satan said it was not. God could have destroyed Satan. That would not prove His cause just but would, in fact, count against Him. There was no other way than for each side to present its evidence, produce its witnesses, and rest its case on the weight of testimony adduced.

The picture, then, is that of a court scene. God's government is at stake. Satan is the accuser; God Himself is the accused and is on trial. He has been charged with injustice, with requiring His creatures to do that which they cannot do, and yet punishing them for not doing it. The law is the specific point of attack, but the law being merely a transcript of God's character, it is God and His character that are the points at issue.

In order for God to sustain His contention, it is necessary for Him to show that He has not been arbitrary, that the law is not harsh and cruel in its requirement, but contrariwise, that it is holy, just, and good, and that men can keep it. It is necessary for God to produce at least one man who has kept the law. In the absence of such a man, God loses and Satan wins. The outcome therefore hinges on the production of one or more who keep the commandments of God. On this God has staked His government.

While it is true that many from time to time have dedicated their lives to God and lived without sin for periods of time, Satan claims that these are special cases, as was Job's case, and do not come under the

ordinary rules. He demands a clear-cut case where there can be no doubt, and where God has not interfered. Can such an instance be produced?

The Last Generation

God is ready for the challenge. He has bided His time. The supreme exhibition has been reserved until the final contest. Out of the last generation God will select His chosen ones. Not the strong or the mighty, not the honored or the rich, not the wise or the learned, but common, ordinary people will God take, and through and by them make His demonstration. Satan has claimed that those who in the past have served God have done so from mercenary motives, that God has pampered them, and that he, Satan, has not had free access to them. If he were given full permission to press his case, they also would be won over. But he charges that God is afraid to let him do this. "Give me a fair chance," Satan says, "and I will win out."

And so, to silence forever Satan's charges; to make it evident that His people are serving Him from motives of loyalty and right without reference to reward; to clear His own name and character of the charges of injustice and arbitrariness; and to show to angels and men that His law can be kept by the weakest of men under the most discouraging and most untoward circumstances, God permits Satan in the last generation to try His people to the utmost. They will be threatened, tortured, persecuted. They will stand face to face with death in the issuance of the decree to worship the beast and his image. (Rev. 13:15.) But they will not yield. They are willing to die rather than to sin.

God removes His Spirit from the earth. Satan will have a greater measure of control than he has ever had before. True, he may not kill God's people, but that seems to be the only limitation. And he uses every permission he has. He knows what is at stake. It is now or never.

God, to make the demonstration complete, does one more thing. He hides Himself. The sanctuary in heaven is closed. The saints cry to God day and night for deliverance, but He appears not to hear. God's chosen ones are passing through Gethsemane. They are having a little taste of Christ's experience—those three hours on the cross. Seemingly they must fight their battles alone. They must live in the sight of a

holy God without an intercessor.

But though Christ has finished His intercession, the saints are still the object of God's love and care. Holy angels watch over them. God provides them shelter from their enemies; He provides them with food, shields them from destruction, and supplies grace and power for holy living. (See Psalms 91.) Yet they are still in the world, still tempted, afflicted, tormented.

Will they stand the test? To human eyes it seems impossible. If only God would come to their rescue, all would be well, They are determined to resist the evil one. If need be they will die, but they will not sin. Satan has no power—and never has had—to make any man sin. He can tempt, he can seduce, he can threaten; but he cannot compel. And now God demonstrates through the weakest of the weak that there is no excuse, and never has been any, for sinning. If men in the last generation can successfully repel Satan's attack; if they can do this with all the odds against them and the sanctuary closed, what excuse is there for men's ever sinning?

The 144,000

In the last generation God gives the final demonstration that men can keep the law of God and that they can live without sinning. God leaves nothing undone to make the demonstration complete. The only limitation put upon Satan is that he may not kill the saints of God. He may tempt them, he may harass and threaten them; and he does his best. But he fails. He cannot make them sin. They stand the test, and God puts His seal upon them.

Through the last generation of saints God stands finally vindicated. Through them He defeats Satan and wins His case. They form a vital part of the plan of God. They go through terrific struggles; they battle with unseen powers in high places. But they have put their trust in the Most High, and they will not be ashamed. They have suffered hunger and thirst, but now "they shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Rev. 7:16, 17.

They "follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth." Rev. 14:4. When at last the doors of the temple shall swing open, a voice will sound

forth: "Only the 144,000 enter this place."—*Early Writings*, p. 19. By faith they have followed the Lamb here. They have gone with Him into the holy place; they have followed Him into the most holy. And in the hereafter only those who have thus followed Him here will follow Him there. They will be kings and priests. They will follow Him into the most holy, where only the High Priest can ever enter. They will stand in the unveiled presence of God. They shall follow Him "whithersoever He goeth." They will not only be "*before* the throne of God" and "serve Him day and night in His temple," but they will sit with Him in His throne, even as He also overcame, and is set down with His Father in His throne. (Rev. 7:15; 3:21.)

The matter of greatest importance in the universe is not the salvation of men, important as that may seem. The most important thing is the clearing of God's name from the false accusations made by Satan. The controversy is drawing to a close. God is preparing His people for the last great conflict. Satan is also getting ready. The issue is before us and will be decided in the lives of God's people. God is depending upon us as He did upon Job. Is His confidence well placed?

It is a wonderful privilege vouchsafed this people to help clear God's name by our testimony. It is wonderful that we are permitted to testify for Him. It must never be forgotten, however, that this testimony is a testimony of life, not merely of words. "In Him was life; and the life was the light of men." John 1:4. "The life was the light." It was so with Christ, it must also be so with us. Our life should be a light, as His life was. To give people the light is more than to hand them a tract. Our *life* is the light. As we *live*, we give light to others, Without life, without our living the light, our words abide alone. But as our life becomes light, our words become effective. It is our life that must testify for God.

May the church of God appreciate the exalted privilege given her! "Ye are My witnesses, saith the Lord." Isa. 43:10. There must be "no strange god among you: *therefore* ye are My witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God." Verse 12. May we be witnesses indeed, testifying what God has done for us!

All this is closely connected with the work of the Day of Atonement. On that day the people of Israel, having confessed their sins, were completely cleansed. They had already been forgiven; now sin was separated from them. They were holy and without blame. The camp of Israel was clean.

We are now living in the great antitypical day of the cleansing of the sanctuary. Every sin must be confessed and by faith be sent beforehand to judgment. As the high priest enters into the most holy, so God's people now are to stand face to face with God. They must know that every sin is confessed, that no stain of evil remains. The cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven is dependent upon the cleansing of God's people on earth. How important, then, that God's people be holy and without blame! In them every sin must be burned out, so that they will be able to stand in the sight of a holy God and live with the devouring fire. "Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge My might. The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously, and speaking uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; he shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure." Isa. 33:13–16.

M. L. Andreasen, *The Sanctuary Service*, (Washington DC: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1947), Chapter 21, pages 299–321.

Appendix B

The Great Tragedy of QOD

By Ron Spear

RECENTLY, we have received word that the General Conference, through its Adventist News Network on November 18, 2003, announced the reprinting of the book, *Questions on Doctrine* (QOD). We look back at the years 1956 and 1957 and review the main players in the book, as well as the meetings with Dr. Donald Gray Barnhouse and Walter Martin. Elder Unruh, president of the Pennsylvania Conference, introduced Barnhouse and Martin to the leading brethren. Elders L. E. Froom, W. E. Read, and R. A. Anderson were then designated by the General Conference Committee (R. R. Figuhr was president) to meet with these leaders of the Evangelicals. The 1960s and 1970s were a time of great turmoil and debate because of the QOD which was published as a result of the meetings. Up to this point (the 1950s), we had been designated by the evangelicals as a cult or a sect not worthy of the name Christian. In remembering back to those days, as a young minister, I especially remember R. A. Anderson, one of the main players in the meetings with Barnhouse and Martin. He was then ministerial secretary of the General Conference. His great passion was to see the Seventh-day Adventist Church accepted by the mainstream evangelicals. He was more than delighted for this opportunity to explain to these Evangelical leaders that our doctrines were based on prophecy and Scripture. As a result of these meetings with these leaders, Froom, Anderson, and Reed, as primary authors, presented the answers to the main concerns of Evangelicals.

Two Main Differences

The reasons why the Evangelicals could not accept us as a Christian denomination was for two main reasons.

1.—Our position on the atonement, which Evangelicals believe was completed at the cross.

We believe that Christ's death on the cross was a complete sub-

stitutionary sacrifice for the sins of the world, and that, inspiration teaches that the atonement is not completed until the heavenly sanctuary is cleansed at the end of the antitypical day of atonement which began in 1844.

2.—Our position on the human nature of Christ, which Evangelicals believe was unfallen like Adam's before the fall.

Because of Romans 1:3, 8:3; Philippians 2:5, 6.; Hebrews 2:14–18, with other supporting scriptures and some 400 inspired statements in the Testimony of Jesus, we believe, in brief, that Jesus took a fallen nature like we receive at birth. He never sinned—rebelled against His Father's will—and thus never had any taint of sin, or evil propensity from personal sin.

Manifesto of the New Theology

On November 27, 2003, David Qualls published on the web site www.greatcontroversy.org, an article entitled "QOD: Minor Aberration, or Manifesto of the New Theology?" His article tells the story of our dangerous journey to the Evangelical world. We will quote extensively from it:

> The events surrounding the publication of QOD are not totally obscure. One of the most prominent and vigorous proponents of the new view was none other than Adventist scholar and church historian Le Roy Edwin Froom. In his large volume, *Movement of Destiny*, Froom lays out a painstaking case for the publication of QOD and related material. Devoting a whole chapter to the subject of QOD, he speaks glowingly of the events surrounding its publication.
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> But earlier in the book, Froom gives us a snapshot preview of his spin on the history of Adventism as it culminates in QOD.
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> "We started out as a 'Little Flock'. . . under a distinct handicap. In our formative stage we as a people were clear and united on our special separative doctrines—the 'testing truths' that made and have kept us distinct from all other Christian bodies . . . our 'Present Truth' message for the world today. . . . These specific doctrinal truths . . . were sound and true. . . .

"But it is equally true that we were not at first united on certain of the saving provisions and Divine Persons of the Everlasting Gospel. . . . There were variant views of the Godhead, the Deity of Christ, and the Holy Spirit, and on aspects of the Atonement, as well. . . . A majority of our founding fathers had a true concept of the eternal Christ and the Godhead. . . . And they sensed the atoning *Act* as made on the Cross, with its benefits then ministered by Christ as our Heavenly High Priest. . . . Ellen White was of this group. But a minority of strong minds held and came to teach publicly certain variant views on these great gospel primaries. . . . [T]hese were their personal views. And decades were required before we came into unity thereon." [capitalization and emphasis in the original]. LeRoy E. Froom, Movement of Destiny, (Washington DC: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1971) 35.

Notice how he lumps the authentic Adventist view of the atonement (which he characterizes as a "variant" and "personal view") in with the anti-trinitarianism and Arianism that was found in certain of our earlier pioneers. Later in the book, Froom will include the "sinful nature of Christ" in with this set of "variant views." Continuing,

"Though long since repudiated, these early defective views, because they were found upon the pages of certain of our published books, came to be regarded by non-Adventist critics as constituting the real . . . Adventism.

"It was this unhappy situation that gave rise to the widespread misconception, bandied about in the theological circles of the religious world, that we were actually an 'anti-Christian cult'—for a cult, according to the definition of many Evangelicals, is a religious body that denies (1) the eternal pre-existence and complete Deity of Christ, (2) that His *Act* of Atonement was completed on the Cross. [capitalization and emphasis in the original].

"Other divergencies might be noted, but these were the two primary points by which the Christian integrity of a religious group was judged. It was the variant views among us *on these two points*—more than our Sabbathkeeping, 'soul

sleep,' and 'investigative judgment' positions—that constituted the real reason for such a regrettable classification and castigation, with resultant prejudice and ostracism. [emphasis in original].

"We have come, thank God, to a new day of frankness and soundness, with resultant better understanding, recognition, and acceptance that is preparing the way for the tremendous world witness and triumph that now lies shortly before us. We are no longer regarded as mere doctrinarians and legalists, but increasingly as true Christians, with our hope and our teachings centered wholly in Christ and the fullness of His Deity, His complete *Act* of Atonement on the Cross, His atoning ministry in heaven, and with salvation by faith in Christ and His righteousness as primary in the broadest and fullest sense of the term. Happy day!" Ibid., 35-37.

In examining the voluminous writings of L. E. Froom, an overriding theme emerges. Dr. Froom's writing career is intent on proving that Seventh-day Adventism is legitimate, belonging well within the stream of true Christianity. This is demonstrated in his massive 4-volume *Prophetic Faith of our Fathers*, his 2-volume *Conditionalist Faith of Our Fathers*, his 700 page *Movement of Destiny*, and his involvement in the publishing of *Questions on Doctrine*. In all of these works, Froom sets out to prove from history that the truths of the Advent movement had, at least to some degree, good company in the shared beliefs of Christians down through the centuries.

Much Truth With Deadly Error

The book *Questions on Doctrines* is probably over 95 percent correct. There is a lot of good information in its pages for Adventists and non-Adventists, but within its pages, there is deadly error. We can see an attempt by Froom and R. A. Anderson to satisfy Barnhouse and Martin. A very careful transition is made not to alarm the Seventh-day Adventist constituency and its leaders, and pastors. A careful wording was selected. Dr. M. L. Andreasen was the first to sound an alarm that the great doctrines of the Sanctuary, its cleansing, the final atone-

ment, the nature of Christ, and so forth, were distorted in the book QOD, and that this tragic step towards the churches of Babylon was neutralizing the doctrine of the three angels' messages. If we were to fraternize closely with the Evangelicals, how could we preach Revelation 14:6–12 with our understanding of the first angel's message—the everlasting gospel—the true righteousness by faith, and the judgment hour message, and that the churches of Babylon are falling into the devil's gospel—saved in sin?

Brother David Qualls again puts our compromise with the Evangelicals in a proper perspective, we quote:

> Why the controversy? If the book is not teeming with error, if it's not teaching Sunday-sacredness or unconditional immortality of the soul or something of that nature, then, why the fuss? Isn't QOD just some minor aberration that we should ignore and forget about?
>
> To assist us in answering this question, we turn to the evangelical friends who encouraged the Adventist authors of QOD to produce it in the first place. We can sense the enormous significance they have placed on the book by quoting from an article [by Kenneth R. Sample] published by the Christian Research Institute (CRI) Journal in 1988.
>
> "The 1960s and 1970s were a time of great turmoil and doctrinal debate within SDA [their abbreviation for Seventh-day Adventism], with the common denominator being the question of Adventism's uniqueness. Would Adventism continue in the same direction established under the [R. R.] Figuhr administration in QOD, or would the denomination return to a more traditional understanding of the faith? The debate over this question would give rise to two distinct factions within SDA: Evangelical Adventism and Traditional Adventism. . . . It is our position that the evaluation given by Barnhouse and Martin still stands for that segment of Adventism which holds to the position stated in QOD, and further expressed in the Evangelical Adventist movement of the last few decades." [Kenneth R. Samples, "From Controversy to Crisis: An Updated Assessment of Seventh-day Adventism," *Christian Research Journal*,

Summer 1988, Vol. 11, Number 1, p. 9.]

Unquestionably, the prestigious evangelical CRI Journal identifies QOD as the watershed event in the emerging new views within Adventism. QOD is the dividing line; it is seen as the basis and foundation for all that has transpired in the division of Adventism into the two camps spoken of above. It is the manifesto of the new views. . . .

We return to the 1988 article by Samples for his description of the trend line coming down to us from QOD:

"The roots of Evangelical Adventism can certainly be traced to the Adventist scholars who dialogued with Barnhouse and Martin. When QOD repudiated such commonly held traditional doctrines as the sinful nature of Christ, literalistic extremes of the heavenly sanctuary, and the writings of Ellen White as an infallible doctrinal authority, they laid a critical foundation for those who would later carry the torch for this reform movement."

This amazing portrayal of events unabashedly traces the modern evangelical movement within Adventism (essentially the New Theology) to the QOD event. Notice the lineup of "traditional doctrines" that had to be repudiated. The "repudiation" of the sinful nature of Christ destroys the true gospel and tarnishes the truth of what Christ is trying to do with His people to prepare them for the final hour. The "repudiation" of "literalistic extremes of the heavenly sanctuary" greatly alters the distinctive truths of the sanctuary and the prophetic significance of 1844. The "repudiation" of the "writings of Ellen White as an infallible doctrinal authority" (code phrase for our high regard for her doctrinal authority), is an obvious attack on the Spirit of Prophecy, one of the identifying characteristics of the Remnant. Some of these were not "repudiated" quite as vigorously in QOD as they would later be by other means. *Questions on Doctrine*, was nevertheless the starting point, the opening wedge, the manifesto that set the new order moving on its way.

Continuing, the article tells us:

"Former editor of Evangelica, Alan Crandall, comments: 'The seeds of this movement [Evangelical Adventism] were

sown within the denomination via the book QOD in 1957, and the seed-plot was watered by the public ministries of such men as R. A. Anderson, H. M. S. Richards, Sr., Edward Heppenstall, Robert Brinsmead, Desmond Ford, Smuts van Rooyen, and others.' This movement continued to grow and evolve throughout the 1970s, with the main spokesmen being two Australian SDA scholars named Robert Brinsmead and Desmond Ford. . ."

This amazing admission is most revealing. *Questions on Doctrine* was the means of sowing the seed. But QOD by itself was not enough. That is why it is a mistake to take the book, examine its contents, declare that it is not really that bad, and castigate those who find serious fault with it. We must recognize that the mature poisonous plant came from a small, benign seed. *Questions on Doctrine* links to the theology of Desmond Ford and the Robert Brinsmead of the 1970s (and beyond). In light of these facts, why would any true friend of the Remnant church choose to dust off a 40 year old controversial book and republish it?

Perhaps the associate editor of *Ministry* magazine unwittingly frames the problem best when she announces the reason for our relations with "our evangelical brethren in Christ" from whom "we are trying to learn some lessons." Those words come from an editorial titled, "Adventism's New Milestone." [Louise C. Kleuser, "Adventism's New Milestone," *Ministry*, April 1957 (as quoted in J. R. Zurcher, *Touched With Our Feelings*, (Hagerstown, MD : Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1999), p. 159).] Trying to learn some lessons from our evangelical brethren? Of course, we should always be humble and willing to learn from anyone, including from outside our church. But never, ever should we go to our evangelical brethren to "learn" how to water down our distinctive doctrines and the finer points of the truths entrusted especially to this church by God Himself so as to meet with their standard of approval.

What starts out as an admirable and desirable thing (demonstrating to non-SDAs that we are legitimate Christians and not a cult) can easily turn into a sell-out. Having once tasted

of the gratifying effects of convincing non-SDA scholars and others that we are indeed not a cult, the temptation to take a step further becomes overwhelming. In our dialoging, we end up making changes that we never otherwise would have made. Our books change, our beliefs are modified, our direction alters. The bright line of distinction between Adventism and the other churches begins to blur. The sharp focus of the picture of our unique beliefs grows fuzzy. In place of truth, we substitute an emotional experience of "brotherly" love with our evangelical friends. Our mission suffers. Our reason for existence diminishes. We settle down to life in this world, living comfortably alongside our fellow Christians.

The Strongest Delusion

We are now Evangelicals in most everything we are doing—education, medical, publishing, and evangelism—because of the great compromise with the churches of fallen Protestantism, a major component of Babylon. We have lost our vision and clear understanding of what we, the remnant church of God for this final generation, are to be.

We have a trained ministry, many with PhD's from the institutions of Babylon. And many of our other leaders and pastors hold Masters of Divinity degrees from our own universities, which are now almost completely secular, according to the General Conference web site. This is a major reason why many of our pastors and leaders no longer believe, preach, and teach the great doctrines of the investigative judgment, the cleansing of the sanctuary, the final atonement of our High Priest Jesus Christ, the continuing mediation of Christ for the faithful, loyal, and obedient Seventh-day Adventists, and the faithful in other churches who are seeking God's truth, but are left in dangerous darkness because of the apostasy in God's remnant church. See *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 70–71, 371.

The following is a true picture of the remnant church in the final phase of the great controversy:

> The heavenly Teacher inquired: "What stronger delusion can beguile the mind than the pretense that you are building on the right foundation and that God accepts your works, when in reality you are working out many things according to

worldly policy and are sinning against Jehovah? Oh, it is a great deception, a fascinating delusion, that takes possession of minds when men who have once known the truth, mistake the form of godliness for the spirit and power thereof; when they suppose that they are rich and increased with goods and in need of nothing, while in reality they are in need of everything."

God has not changed toward His faithful servants who are keeping their garments spotless. But many are crying, "Peace and safety," while sudden destruction is coming upon them. Unless there is thorough repentance, unless men humble their hearts by confession and receive the truth as it is in Jesus, they will never enter heaven. When purification shall take place in our ranks, we shall no longer rest at ease, boasting of being rich and increased with goods, in need of nothing.

Who can truthfully say: "Our gold is tried in the fire; our garments are unspotted by the world"? I saw our Instructor pointing to the garments of so-called righteousness. Stripping them off, He laid bare the defilement beneath. Then He said to me: "Can you not see how they have pretentiously covered up their defilement and rottenness of character? 'How is the faithful city become an harlot!' My Father's house is made a house of merchandise, a place whence the divine presence and glory have departed! For this cause there is weakness, and strength is lacking."

Unless the church, which is now being leavened with her own backsliding, shall repent and be converted, she will eat of the fruit of her own doing, until she shall abhor herself. When she resists the evil and chooses the good, when she seeks God with all humility and reaches her high calling in Christ, standing on the platform of eternal truth and by faith laying hold upon the attainments prepared for her, she will be healed. She will appear in her God-given simplicity and purity, separate from earthly entanglements, showing that the truth has made her free indeed. Then her members will indeed be the chosen of God, His representatives. *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 249–251.

New Annotated Edition of QOD

The new edition has been edited, we understand, by a professor at Andrews University, who has been responsible for neutralizing the great message of 1888—righteousness by faith—in his books and writings. We are then not encouraged to believe that he will have corrected the tragic errors of QOD. We must believe it will continue to carry the very same errors of the first edition, but probably in even more subtle, harder to expose, wording. God help us!

How can we possibly make the call to come out of her my people—out of Babylon—when we are agreeing with some of her fatal doctrines—saved in sinning till Jesus comes? The book, *Questions on Doctrine* is partially responsible for downgrading Ellen White, our last-day prophet, as a prophet that can not always be relied on. They admit she was a great help for the 19th century, but not for the 21st century. When you say that her four hundred statements that support the truth that Christ took man's fallen nature is/was a "variant" teaching in Adventism, and that SDAs now believe that Christ took man's unfallen nature, you are saying that E. G. White was/is a false prophet!

Yes, QOD prepared the way for the New Theology—saved in sinning. It has been greatly responsible for preventing the formation of the final generation—the fourth angel of Revelation chapter 18 that is to join with the third angel's message to swell into the loud cry movement.

Then QOD is greatly responsible for the Omega of Apostasy, with its irreverent Pentecostal celebration worship and music, that is now raging through our churches worldwide,. See *Selected Messages*, book 1, 193–205; Ibid., book 2, 35–37.

Then, QOD is greatly responsible for the most recent fifty-year delay in completing the true gospel commission—saved from all sin by the grace of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual Eyesalve Needed

Spiritual blindness is responsible for the Laodicean condition. When a leader is over-taken with this spiritual blindness, the majority of those infected with his blindness, tragically, will reject the only solution—the eyesalve of the True Witness. Those who survive these end-time deceptions of Satan must be wide awake:

> Those who have held the beginning of their confidence firm unto the end will be wide awake during the time that the third angel's message is proclaimed with great power. *Review and Herald*, October 13, 1904.

As Laodiceans, we must anoint our eyes with the heavenly eyesalve in order that we may see the tragedy of reprinting this book QOD, which now is responsible for much of the misunderstanding of the great end time truths which separate us from the churches of Babylon.

But, while Satan intensely works to obliterate the truth, the mighty fourth angel will lighten the earth with the gospel message:

> Satan and his angels are wide awake and intensely active, working with energy and perseverance through human instrumentalities to bring about his purpose of obliterating from the minds of men the knowledge of God. But while Satan works with his lying wonders, the time will be fulfilled foretold in the Revelation, and the mighty angel that shall lighten the earth with his glory will proclaim the fall of Babylon, and call upon God's people to forsake her. Ibid., December 13, 1892.

The Laodicean message calls for repentance, and the placing of the spiritual eyesalve on our rebellious eyes in order that we can see our horrendous mistakes and rebellion, and be counted as overcomers in the Lamb's book of life, and thus be saved at last:

> And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chas-

ten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." Revelation 3:14–22.

God warns and rebukes all who have been responsible for the Omega of Apostasy. His sober words, to those who have engineered apostasy, or tolerated it without speaking out against it; to those who have failed to defend the sacred truth given by God to His remnant people; to those who are responsible for the printing of QOD with its destructive concepts of God's special message for the remnant church, can be found in these inspired statements from our prophets:

Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out, and cry: they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink. Isaiah 29:9.

It is presented to me that in our experience we have been and are meeting this very condition of things. Men who have had great light and wonderful privileges have taken the word of leaders who think themselves wise, who have been greatly favored and blessed by the Lord, but who have taken themselves out of the hands of God and placed themselves in the ranks of the enemy.

The world is to be flooded with specious fallacies. One human mind, accepting these fallacies, will work upon other human minds, who have been turning the precious evidence of God's truth into a lie. These men will be deceived by fallen angels, when they should have stood as faithful guardians, watching for souls, as they that must give an account. They have laid down the weapons of their warfare, and have given heed to seducing spirits. They make of no effect the counsel of God and set aside His warnings and reproofs, and are positively on Satan's side.

Spiritual drunkenness is now upon men who ought not to be staggering as men under the influence of strong drink. . . .

I warn our people that right among us some will turn away from the faith and give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and by them the truth will be evil spoken of. . . .

A marvelous work shall take place. Ministers, lawyers, doctors, who have permitted these falsehoods to overmaster their spirit of discernment, will be themselves deceivers, united with the deceived. A spiritual drunkenness will take possession of them. To the unfaithful stewards the Lord says, "Take your pleasure and walk in blindness as drunken men, for, after having many opportunities, and refusing to improve them, you will act at last as the drunkard acts, throwing away your hope of eternal life." Seeking deep to hide their counsel from the Lord, and making lies their refuge, they will misinterpret the warnings and messages God has sent, placing on these warnings their false statements, to make God's Word of no effect. *The Upward Look*, 317.

The mind of which error has once taken possession can never expand freely to after-investigation. The old theories will claim recognition. The understanding of things that are true and elevated and sanctifying will be confused. Superstitious ideas will enter the mind, to mingle with the true, and these ideas are always debasing in their influence. Christian knowledge bears its own stamp of unmeasured superiority in all that concerns the preparation for the future, immortal life. It distinguishes the Bible reader and believer, who has been receiving the precious treasures of truth, from the skeptic and the believer in pagan philosophy.

Cleave to the word, "It is written." Cast out of the mind the dangerous, obtrusive theories which, if entertained, will hold the mind in bondage, so that man shall not become a new creature in Christ. The mind must be constantly restrained and guarded. It must be given as food only that which will strengthen the religious experience. *Review and Herald*, November 10, 1904.

The church is Christ's fortress in a revolted world, and

it must be strictly guarded against the enemy's wily arts. In it no laws are to be acknowledged but the laws of God. Those whom God has set as watchmen are not to look on quietly while efforts are being made to lead men and women away from the truth into false paths. Careful watch is to be kept against seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. God calls upon ministers and medical missionaries to take a firm stand for the right. The severe denunciations that Christ uttered against the Pharisees for teaching for doctrine the commandments of men show the necessity for guarding against all theories that are not in harmony with the truth of God's word. *Medical Ministry*, 89–90.

I saw that we are no more secure from false teachers now than they were in the apostles' days; and, if we do no more, we should take as special measures as they did to secure the peace, harmony, and union of the flock. We have their example, and should follow it. Brethren of experience and of sound minds should assemble, and following the Word of God and the sanction of the Holy Spirit, should, with fervent prayer, lay hands upon those who have given full proof that they have received their commission of God, and set them apart to devote themselves entirely to His work. This act would show the sanction of the church to their going forth as messengers to carry the most solemn message ever given to men.

God will not entrust the care of His precious flock to men whose mind and judgment have been weakened by former errors that they have cherished, such as so-called perfectionism and Spiritualism, and who, by their course while in these errors, have disgraced themselves and brought reproach upon the cause of truth. Although they may now feel free from error and competent to go forth and to teach this last message, God will not accept them. He will not entrust precious souls to their care; for their judgment was perverted while in error, and is now weakened. The great and holy One is a jealous God, and He will have holy men to carry His truth. The holy law spoken by God from Sinai

> as a part of Himself, and holy men who are its strict observers will alone honor Him by teaching it to others. *Early Writings*, 101–102.

It is true, we are no longer considered a cult or a sect, but what a price we have paid! How can a gospel acceptable to the fallen evangelical churches of Babylon give an effective, loud cry call to come out of that spiritually blind body? May God help us now!

Appendix C

The Cleansing of the Sanctuary*

By Ron Spear

IT IS A WONDERFUL THING to be a Seventh-day Adventist Christian in these early years of the twenty-first century. Let me tell you dear ones, the most distinct message that God gave to His remnant church in this remnant time is the Sanctuary. Many other churches are preaching the Sabbath. Many other churches have the non-immortality of the soul as we do, but none have the sanctuary as God has given it to us. It is a message that separates us from other denominations. The tragedy is, that we Seventh-day Adventists have largely lost our appreciation for, and understanding of, this distinct message. It was a message that made Adventism back in our beginning. And the understanding of this marvelous message, my friends, is what separated the first-day Adventists from the Seventh-day Adventists. Am I right? Those back in the 1844 disappointment that did not follow Jesus into the most Holy Place as our Mediator and our High Priest, we are told, were left in darkness. In a statement that Ellen White made, that can be found in the book, *Selected Messages*, book 1, 63, we read:

> All who saw the light of the first and second angels' messages and rejected that light were left in darkness.

In the Sanctuary

And because those angels are so closely related to the sanctuary message that we have, it means to me that those that did not understand what Jesus was doing (because the first and second angels' messages had a direct relationship to the sanctuary) went back into darkness. And Seventh-day Adventists today who do not understand what Jesus is doing in the Most Holy right now, if we are not following our High Priest in every movement that He is making, it means that as the

*Adapted from a recent sermon.

Advent believers were left in darkness because of their misunderstanding of the sanctuary, that we today as Seventh-day Adventists, if we refuse to understand this sanctuary message, there will come a day when we will be left in darkness. Every Seventh-day Adventist is going to be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary:

> Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God? Psalms 77:13.

> This is the great day of atonement, and our Advocate is standing before the Father, pleading as our intercessor. In place of wrapping about us the garments of self-righteousness, we should be found daily humbling ourselves before God, confessing our own individual sins, seeking the pardon of our transgressions, and cooperating with Christ in the work of preparing our souls to reflect the divine image. Unless we enter the sanctuary above, and unite with Christ in working out our own salvation with fear and trembling, we shall be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary, and shall be pronounced wanting. *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary: Ellen G. White Comments*, vol. 7, 933–934.

> In the balances of the sanctuary the Seventh-day Adventist church is to be weighed. She will be judged by the privileges and advantages that she has had. If her spiritual experience does not correspond to the advantages that Christ, at infinite cost, has bestowed on her, if the blessings conferred have not qualified her to do the work entrusted to her, on her will be pronounced the sentence: "Found wanting." By the light bestowed, the opportunities given, will she be judged. *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 247.

> The church will be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary. If her moral character and spiritual state do not correspond with the benefits and blessings God has conferred upon her, she will be found wanting. The light has been shining clear and definite upon her pathway, and the light of 1882 calls her to an account. If her talents are unimproved, if her fruit is not perfect before God, if her light has become dark-

> ness, she is indeed found wanting. . . . We profess to know God, and to believe the truth, but in works deny Him. Our deeds are directly adverse to the principles of truth and righteousness, by which we profess to be governed. Ibid., vol. 5, 83–84.

Now in the light of those statements, it means to me dear ones that you who are reading this article at this moment are being weighed in the balances of the sanctuary. And that is an awesome thought, don't you believe? We do not know when the judgment of the living will take place. The only thing that we know is that Jesus today; by all the evidences that we have in the world and by what is happening in the church, that Jesus is just about ready to throw down that censer and cease His work as our Mediator and High Priest, and step into the Holy Place in preparation to come into the outer court, which is this world. And it is very evident to me that possibly God has given us some additional time. Would you say that might be right? It could be that the situations which have developed in our world in the last few years are evidence that Jesus has brought us back from the very brink of total chaos for one reason. That reason is because there are so many unprepared in the church and in the world, and His great love for His church in this final moment is such that He has given us some additional time to make preparation. It is important, dear ones today, that we understand the sanctuary, Why?—Because, as just quoted in Psalms 77:13 He says:

> Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary.

Cleansing Soul Temples

And if we are going to be saved at all, it will be because we know God's way. And the only way that you will ever understand God's way is to come to an understanding of the beautiful sanctuary message. You see, I believe that where we have failed is that we have studied Daniel 8:14 and just believed that that was only a judicial act of God—that sometime down here in the near future, God and the Son would become so weary of the great controversy, that suddenly the censer would fall and probation would close, thus leaving the cleansing of the sanctuary as only a judicial act of God, totally outside of, and apart from, our personal lives. But, what many Seventh-day Adventists

have not apparently understood is that there has to be a work done here in the soul temple of God's people in this final moment, and that, dear reader, is the only thing that I see that God and our High Priest is waiting for today. He wants us to understand that the cleansing of the sanctuary is not just a judicial act of God, but that it includes a work on earth in the soul temples of God's people which must be accomplished before the great scene in heaven can cease in the Most Holy Place. He must have a cleansing of His people upon the earth, so they no longer will send their sins into the Most Holy. This is the everlasting gospel which is to be preached to the church and to the world, that God has all the power in the world to keep every human being from sin, if he will give his will to God. That great marvelous teaching my friends is the very key to the salvation experience, to the sanctuary experience. If you go to Revelation 11:1, you will find God's remnant people there:

> And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

And in Revelation 13:6 we see a similar thought:

> And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

Now in both of these verses, these people were not actually bodily in heaven, but in their spirit—in their whole being and mind, their souls were dwelling there. They were following their High Priest in every movement that He was making because they were discerning the signs of the times, and they knew that they were being measured in the Most Holy. And let me tell you that today, the devil hates this message more than he hates anything else. He hates the Spirit of Prophecy, because the Spirit of Prophecy gives a clear explanation of the sanctuary message supported by everything that God has given to us in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Hebrews.

But you do not have to turn to the Spirit of Prophecy to understand the sanctuary message, Do you?—No. It was beautifully given by God in the Bible, but God wanted to be absolutely sure that we did not misunderstand it, and so He under girded it with the Spirit of Prophecy in order to make sure that we, as the Seventh-day Adventist people,

would dwell with Him in the Most Holy Place. In the sacrificial system, in its beginning, let me tell you friends, I can see Adam standing there with trembling hands. What he used to slay that first little lamb, I do not know. He had never seen death, but he had been instructed by our Saviour that this sacrifice had to be made, and that that lamb was only a symbol of Himself the great God of heaven, who would actually come in human form; come down to the level of the fallen human race, accepting both the physical and the moral nature of man.

And you know much is being said today about the incarnation, and men of great minds have struggled to try to find a way to explain it. No man can fully explain it. Great is the mystery of godliness, God manifested in the flesh. Do not try to explain it. It must be accepted by faith friends. And this great God of ours, who laid aside His crown, and who laid aside His robe, and became an embryo in the womb of a woman, and went through every trying experience from the prenatal on through the postnatal into youth and manhood, He gave three and a half years of ministry, my friends, as the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. See *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary: Ellen G. White Comments*, vol. 5, 1128–1131. He subjected Himself to everything that the human race must be subjected to, and even went beyond, because at His fingertips was His own divinity of which He could not use for His personal benefit, and still be our Example and the Lamb of God. And that was the devil's greatest temptation to Him.

At the final scene on Golgotha's hill, my friends, a million demons or more were there coaxing that crowd into a frenzy to try to force Jesus to retaliate against this terrible injustice, and to use His own divinity, which would nullify the plan of salvation. That is our God. That is our High Priest.

Oh friends, in the sanctuary is where we are going to be weighed. And let me tell you, as God puts us into the balances today, He sets us on one side, and the law, and the plan of salvation, that is so perfectly and beautifully portrayed, on the other side. As we are weighed, **Where do we stand today?** In that beautiful sanctuary service, my friends, is the perfect character of Jesus, and as you are placed on the balances, it is the character of Christ that stands on the other side to weigh you. And, it is only as we are willing to participate with Him in this great plan by giving our will to Him, that our minds become His, that our

thoughts are controlled by Him, and that our lives are now His life. It is all made possible because the power that He used to live a perfect life has come to those who surrender and submit themselves completely. **And everything that Jesus did, we can do.** The same power by which Jesus resisted sin and transgression of God's holy law is ours. He never used any power that He could not extend to the fallen race to live a victorious life, as He lived a victorious life. Yes, victorious living is a fruit of Christ's heavenly ministry through the Holy Spirit working in us, and it is a requirement for salvation. And so the way my friends to salvation is in the sanctuary. And the great antitypical day of atonement that began in 1844, and in which we are in this very hour, is a day of bringing God's people into atonement in a great judgment scene. Atonement my friends, is to bring the soul, the character, and the mind so closely into resemblance to the great Example, that the world will look upon us in these final moments and have to confess that we have been with the great High Priest in His sanctuary.

Oh, God in heaven, this day, please, in these final moments we weak frail mortals, we need thee oh God. We need thee, and we must have thee. And the only way we can have you and find you is in the sanctuary.

As we come down to the final scene, zero hour is here, and we are now on borrowed time. In *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 575, we read this important statement:

> The great plan of redemption, as revealed in the closing work of these last days, should receive close examination. The scenes connected with the sanctuary above should make such an impression upon the minds and hearts of all that they may be able to impress others. All need to become more intelligent in regard to the work of the atonement, which is going on in the sanctuary above. When this grand truth is seen and understood, those who hold it will work in harmony with Christ to prepare a people to stand in the great day of God, and their efforts will be successful. By study, contemplation, and prayer God's people will be elevated above common, earthly thoughts and feelings, and will be brought into harmony with Christ and His great work of cleansing the sanctuary above from the sins of the people.

Their faith will go with Him into the sanctuary, and the worshipers on earth will be carefully reviewing their lives and comparing their characters with the great standard of righteousness. They will see their own defects; they will also see that they must have the aid of the Spirit of God if they would become qualified for the great and solemn work for this time which is laid upon God's ambassadors.

Elsewhere we read:

The significance of the Jewish economy is not yet fully comprehended. Truths vast and profound are shadowed forth in its rites and symbols. The gospel is the key that unlocks its mysteries. Through a knowledge of the plan of redemption, its truths are opened to the understanding. Far more than we do, it is our privilege to understand these wonderful themes. We are to comprehend the deep things of God. Angels desire to look into the truths that are revealed to the people who with contrite hearts are searching the word of God, and praying for greater lengths and breadths and depths and heights of the knowledge which He alone can give.

As we near the close of this world's history, the prophecies relating to the last days especially demand our study. The last book of the New Testament scriptures is full of truth that we need to understand. Satan has blinded the minds of many, so that they have been glad of any excuse for not making the Revelation their study. But Christ through His servant John has here declared what shall be in the last days. *Christ's Object Lessons*, 133.

And so, if we are going to understand the sanctuary, we must understand Revelation. And here my friends, is where we have been very defunct in our approach of study, that we have been going along with what others have said, and what others have written, rather than sitting down carefully and taking Scripture by Scripture, text by text, line upon line, precept upon precept, and on our knees pleading with God to send His Holy Spirit to us to teach us. See Isaiah 28:9–14.

Let me tell you friends, that the only way you will make all of these

things important to you, is that daily you are opening the Word of God, and you are comparing with it the accumulated knowledge that God sends through men, and asking God to send His Holy Spirit into your life, so that you can discern the great things that God has for us in this great sanctuary message. The problem as I see it with the Adventist people in this great study of the sanctuary service, is that we are asking men to spoon-feed us, and that is part, but what we need today is the greatest Teacher in all the world to explain it to us. And every day my friends, you must be approaching this dynamic subject before God, and asking Him to send His Spirit to teach you what you should know, and then to indelibly write it into your soul, because the sanctuary message, my friends, is a cleansing message from sin. Do you believe that?

Malachi 3:1–3 says:

> Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

PROBATION CLOSES SUDDENLY, UNEXPECTEDLY

What does the above scripture tell you?—It tells me, my friends, that what God is going to do one day is going to be very quick. If you look at *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary: Ellen G. White Comments*, vol. 7, 989, she says:

> When probation ends, it will come suddenly, unexpectedly—at a time when we are least expecting it.

> Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the

LORD of hosts. But who may abide the day . . . ? Malachi 3:1–2.

Who is going to abide in that day? My friends as we stand on the precipices of a great volcano that is ready to erupt, I see the majority of God's people standing there watching television instead of on their knees pleading with God for an understanding of, and an experience in, these great dynamics of the Adventist message—the three angels' messages, and the sanctuary truths:

> But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap. Malachi 3:2.

What is a refiner's fire? Does it take a lot of heat to melt metal? When you put the metal above the burner and turn the heat up, immediately, if the fire is hot enough, the metal melts. But also immediately is seen the impurities of that metal. Have you seen that? In the good old days, some of us who have gray hair, use to do our plumbing with lead. And as you heated the lead, we found that the slag came up, and I can remember standing there and skimming it off with a little stick. And the hotter the fire, the more impurities came up until you could look into that metal and almost see your reflection.

In Malachi, my friends, I see a similar scene on a divine level, because it is Jesus who controls the heat. The fire burns hot in affliction, trials, and temptations that God allows to pass upon His people in order to perfect them and to bring them into such a relationship to Him that they can respond to life as Jesus responded to life when He was on earth. And above this scene my friends, we see the great God of the universe, and He stands there skimming off the slag. And as the fire gets hotter, and hotter, the more impurities appear, and Jesus, lovingly, and tenderly, and kindly stands there and takes off the impurities and the slag until He can look into that metal and see His own reflection of His people. Their characters are as perfectly developed as His in order that they can respond to all the things that the devil will bring upon them just as He would do it:

> And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi . . . Malachi 3:3.

Who are the sons of Levi?—My friends, that is God's faithful and loyal people. All through time God has had faithful and loyal people, and He has allowed them to pass through the afflictions. The heat has become intense, but as a faithful High Priest, He has stood above the fire and scraped away the slag, until He had a people that could endure anything by the power that he provided for them. Even from the martyr's grave, they would not turn away. My friends, that is what God had at the first Pentecost, and God is only waiting today to have a people like that for the second Pentecost. And today the great High Priest of heaven, my friends, is standing over the fire, and the devil, as God allows, turns up the fire hotter and hotter in the hope that he can take the saints away from God. **And in this great shaking moment, that we are in right now**, many are falling by the way. "Oh, God in heaven, preserve us now."

The false theories among us, my friends, have demanded a straight testimony from the lips of God's servants. And in this phase of the shaking, many rise up against that testimony. And that straight testimony will be followed by the third phase of the shaking, which is the persecution. See 2 Timothy 3:12; *Maranatha*, 199; *The Great Controversy*, 608–609. I believe that in some areas, we may have already begun the third phase of the shaking. As God allows the devil to turn up the heat, you can be sure that every one faithful to Christ is going to be afflicted. Some may be martyrs. Some may be finding yourself in the courts, and in dungeons, and the only way you will endure such terrible afflictions or such death is to understand where your High Priest is—in the Most Holy Place. Now with that, let us read the following quotations to help solidify the above statements:

> Christ is cleansing the temple in heaven from the sins of the people, and we must work in harmony with Him upon the earth, cleansing the soul temple from its moral defilement. *Review and Herald*, February 11, 1890.

> We are in the day of atonement, and we are to work in harmony with Christ's work of cleansing the sanctuary from the sins of the people. Ibid., January 21, 1890.

As I have said, we have come nearly to zero hour; how close, only God knows, but God, my friends, is allowing things to develop in

the world and in the church to awaken His faithful and loyal to the emergency that we are in. And, in this great emergency, my friends, the only ones that will endure on, and be saved, are those who understand this marvelous, dynamic message centered in the High Priesthood of the Most Holy Place in the heavenly sanctuary. And when God has a people on earth that understand that they do not have to sin, that God in this moment is ready, and has always been ready, to provide us power to overcome every weakness, every deficiency of character—both hereditary and cultivated sins—until the slag is burned away, the world and the universe will then confess that we have been with our High Priest.

The Day of Atonement in the camp of Israel was a day of judgment. And let me tell you, that the three days of preparation that went into getting ready for that day was an awesome time. Their clothes were washed. Everything was prepared. They went back over the year, and they sought the Lord and they tried to find out if there was anything in their hearts and souls that brought guilt. They went to their friends, their neighbors, and their relatives, anybody that they felt that they might have offended or had a problem with. I mean there was contrition, and a repentance of all sins. And with awesomeness on that day, as the Day of Atonement was coming, and the sun would set to usher in that day, I mean the church stood in prayer and fasting. They had great evidence that God was their God. They had watched what had happened at the Red Sea. They had seen water gushing up out of the ground to take care of the thirst of themselves and their animals, to wash their cloths, it took millions of gallons, my friends.

If you have been in the Middle East, as I have, and seen that dried up old ground, let me tell you, it took a great miracle of God. It must have been a very impressive experience to watch that river of water come up. They watched, my friends, as the manna—angel food—came down, and you can imagine what it took to feed an encampment of nearly two million people. You think of a city as large as Los Angeles, my friends, and to think of the trains and the trucks that come into that city to keep some three million people alive. And God had every day the responsibility of raining down that food to sustain them in their wilderness wandering. Did you know that to pass across the Red Sea in 24 hours, it took five thousand abreast? Let me tell you friends, the miracles that were being wrought for the children of Israel, were abso-

lutely fantastic. They could not deny that God was there, because every night when they went to bed the pillar of fire stood above them. They could not have denied God's presence, because during the day, with the burning sun boiling down upon them, God overshadowed them by the pillar of cloud. And yet, with all this tremendous evidence, my friends, so many times they forgot of God's loving care and murmured against Him. And today, we Seventh-day Adventists say, "Oh, if I had been there, I would have never done it." But my friends, we have done worse today. If you will look in *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 129, she says we have done worse than they.

Elsewhere, she says:

> God has called His church in this day, as He called ancient Israel, to stand as a light in the earth. By the mighty cleaver of truth, the messages of the first, second, and third angels, He has separated them from the churches and from the world to bring them into a sacred nearness to Himself. He has made them the depositaries of His law and has committed to them the great truths of prophecy for this time. Like the holy oracles committed to ancient Israel, these are a sacred trust to be communicated to the world. The three angels of Revelation 14 represent the people who accept the light of God's messages and go forth as His agents to sound the warning throughout the length and breadth of the earth. Christ declares to His followers: "Ye are the light of the world." To every soul that accepts Jesus the cross of Calvary speaks: "Behold the worth of the soul: 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.' " Nothing is to be permitted to hinder this work. It is the all-important work for time; it is to be far-reaching as eternity. The love that Jesus manifested for the souls of men in the sacrifice which He made for their redemption, will actuate all His followers.
>
> But very few of those who have received the light are doing the work entrusted to their hands. There are a few men of unswerving fidelity who do not study ease, convenience, or life itself, who push their way wherever they can find an opening to press the light of truth and vindicate the holy law of God. But the sins that control the world have

come into the churches, and into the hearts of those who claim to be God's peculiar people. Many who have received the light exert an influence to quiet the fears of worldlings and formal professors. There are lovers of the world even among those who profess to be waiting for the Lord. There is ambition for riches and honor. Christ describes this class when He declares that the day of God is to come as a snare upon all that dwell upon the earth. This world is their home. They make it their business to secure earthly treasures. They erect costly dwellings and furnish them with every good thing; they find pleasure in dress and the indulgence of appetite. The things of the world are their idols. These interpose between the soul and Christ, and the solemn and awful realities that are crowding upon us are but dimly seen and faintly realized. The same disobedience and failure which were seen in the Jewish church have characterized in a greater degree the people who have had this great light from heaven in the last messages of warning. Shall we, like them, squander our opportunities and privileges until God shall permit oppression and persecution to come upon us? Will the work which might be performed in peace and comparative prosperity be left undone until it must be performed in days of darkness, under the pressure of trial and persecution?

There is a terrible amount of guilt for which the church is responsible. Why are not those who have the light putting forth earnest efforts to give that light to others? They see that the end is near. They see multitudes daily transgressing God's law; and they know that these souls cannot be saved in transgression. Yet they have more interest in their trades, their farms, their houses, their merchandise, their dress, their tables, than in the souls of men and women whom they must meet face to face in the judgment. The people who claim to obey the truth are asleep. They could not be at ease as they are if they were awake. The love of the truth is dying out of their hearts. Their example is not such as to convince the world that they have truth in advance of every other people upon the earth. At the very time when they should be strong in God, having a daily, living experience, they are feeble, hesi-

tating, relying upon the preachers for support, when they should be ministering to others with mind and soul and voice and pen and time and money. *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 455–457.

Weighed In the Balances

The evidence today of what God has given to us, and what we as Seventh-day Adventist have turned away from, makes us greatly responsible, and we will be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary. And so dear ones, what happened to the children of Israel on that day as they made that preparation? They came up to that moment with fear and trembling, because let me tell you that day was a day of sealing. And my friends that day has been going on, we are told by the Lord's messenger, since 1844. And let me tell you, that with the same awesomeness with which the children of Israel approached that day, Seventh-day Adventists ought to be approaching that day every morning, knowing that our lives are being weighed in the balances of the sanctuary in heaven. God has us on one side of the scale, and He has His character on the other side of the scale, and friends the question that you and I must ask ourselves today is, **How are we as we are weighed in the balances?**

Let us consider further the experience of the children of Israel. Daily they came with their sacrifices—the leading of the little lamb in plain view of the entire church, long lines must have been formed as the priest waited upon them. All day many of them must have stood patiently in the heat of the day waiting with their little lambs, and you can hear the baaing of those little lambs calling for their mothers. Finally, the repentant sinner was ushered into the court, and there he stood as he tied that little lamb to the altar, and then he took the knife and cut the throat of that little lamb. And the little lamb, finally with glassy eyes would collapse as the blood came forth, signifying, my friends, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Abraham was put to the test on Mt. Moriah. Asked of God to sacrifice his own son, Abraham went faithfully forward in full obedience. As his hand with the knife was raised, it was stayed by the angel, my friends. Abraham was put to the test and he was victorious because of his faith. And on that same mountain, my friends, the Son of God was put to the test. Praise the Lord, He also came away victori-

ous, because of His full trust and faith in His Father.

Dear ones, as we now approach the final phases of the Day of Atonement, the evidence is so clear. As the world is now in such chaos with the economy hanging by nothing. The world is frightened today, and the only thing that holds the economy together is the hand of God. And God will not let it go friends, until He is ready. When He has a people ready for sealing, it will all happen. And let me tell you, the economy is not the message for today. The message for today my friends, is that Jesus is coming. He is coming soon, and He is our High Priest. Probation soon closes, and God must have a holy people before Jesus can throw down the censer. That is the message for today. Wouldn't you agree?

The closing activities of the earthly tabernacle's Day of Atonement services involved two he goats. The two goats are lead to the door of the tabernacle, and the high priest casts the lots. The Lord's goat is taken and sacrificed. Already tremendous preparation has been made in the encampment. The high priest and his family are purified by the sacrifice of the bullock. And as the blood of the Lord's goat is taken upon the high priest, the whole church stands waiting as he disappears behind the curtain. And they listen. Not a voice is raised. Not even a child is allowed to cry, because the church is about ready to close its probation. And they wait and they listen because they know that if God has not accepted them, the life of the high priest is at stake. Tradition says that they even tied a rope to his foot, in case something went wrong. And they wait and they listen because they must hear the bells on the garment of their priest. And as they hear the continual tinkling of the bells, you can almost hear the gasp of relief, **"We are accepted by God."** The record of the confessed and repented of sins of the past that has been carefully kept is now clean, and they are accepted as children of God, purified, and sealed. And oh, my friends, we have come to the antitypical day of that day. Wouldn't you agree? We are here; this is it!

The goat of the Lord was sacrificed, and now there is only one goat remaining, and as we approach zero hour, my friends the devil has come down to Christ's church like a roaring lion. Oh, if you do not believe that, just spend a few days and follow me around, and let me tell you, I can tell you stories of what the devil does. And I am sure you are experiencing similar things in your lives. He is terrorized because

he knows that now, God, through the righteousness by faith message, is stirring up a people that will understand victory over sin. Satan has tried to keep it away from the church for 158 years. And out there in the grassroots of the church, my friends, men and women, and young people are hungering and thirsting after righteousness. And in the churches that were once dying for the want of the teaching of righteousness by faith, and kindred truths, men and women are today rising up with this beautiful experience of righteousness by faith. I see it everywhere. Do you?

> No one has said that we shall find perfection in any man's investigations; but this I do know, that our churches are dying for the want of teaching on the subject of righteousness by faith in Christ, and on kindred truths. *Gospel Workers*, 301.

And let me tell you, this is a great signal to the church. A signal that the greatest moment lies just before us. Just on the tip of the horizon now. And it means that you and I must be so faithful in every little detail of our lives day by day that we are asking God for the power of the Holy Spirit to keep us from sinning. And then we are having that marvelous victory in our lives so that we can take that experience to the world. These angels of Revelation 14:6–12, and chapter eighteen, verses 1–3, are not literal angels. They are symbols of you and I, with this victory over sin experience in our lives. And by our voices, we are going to take this message to the world. Do you believe that? And this is the hour right now that it must go. If we do not do it my friends, the rocks will do the preaching, and the literal angels will stand on the street corners with the message, and will come to our churches to revive men and women. As Jesus steps from the Most Holy Place into the Holy Place in preparation for coming to this earth again, at that moment, probation having already ceased for the Adventist Church, now ceases also for the world. Then Christ Jesus places upon the devil, in that final moment, all the confessed sins of the righteous. The unconfessed sins of the unrepentant, they themselves will bear, but the blotted out sins of the saints, the devil will bear; not only his part, but our part. What was placed on the head of the scape goat were the sins of the people which had been confessed and pardoned, and blotted out. The priest's confession upon the scape goat represented the guilt,

which had been freely forgiven of those who during the year had acknowledged their wrong and for which atonement had just been fully made. These were not the unatoned for sins. They needed not to be more fully atoned for by the death of the scape goat.

On the Day of Atonement, the lots were cast, the Lord's goat and the scape goat were chosen. The choice is made at the direction of, and by the authority of, the Lord. The scape goat had no part in the pardoning of the repentant sinner, nor in the blotting out of sins in the sanctuary. The life of the scape goat is not taken, nor is his blood needed for sacrificial purposes. The scape goat is caused no suffering during this holy day because of the sins of others. The scape goat had no part during the affliction of the congregation. Since the scape goat's blood was not shed, he could **not** be used for the remission of sin. And without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. See Hebrews 7:8. Therefore, the scape goat makes no propitiation for sin.

The scape goat is not used as man's substitute as is the Lord's goat—the sin offering. The scape goat is given no consideration in the exercises of the Day of Atonement until the services are completed in the Holy of Holies. After the sanctuary is cleansed, the scape goat is brought alive to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. Atonement has already been made for the sins which are placed upon the head of the scape goat by the high priest. These sins have been brought out of the sanctuary. The scape goat does not die that day. The Lord's goat for the sin offering accomplished all that was essential and necessary to make amends for the broken law in the Holy of Holies, and for the sins of the people. The goat chosen to be the Lord's goat was offered as a sin offering. The sin offerings noted in chapter four of Leviticus were all offered to bear the sins of the people. The penitent sinner recognized in this sin offering, his substitute, and he was pardoned of his sin when the blood of the animal was sprinkled in the Holy Place. Atonement was completed for the repentant sinner on the day of atonement through the shed blood of the Lord's goat—the sin offering. And so those who make the scapegoat our Saviour, do not understand what the sanctuary stands for. They have been surface readers.

But let me tell you in closing, we are standing awfully near the final scenes. The important thing is not that the devil will bear our sins; the important thing is that Jesus bore our sins. And upon Golgotha's hill, my friends, God paid an infinite price for us. You cannot comprehend what

a sacrifice heaven has made. Our minds are too frail to fully understand the great Day of Atonement that is now going on. No one knows the day or the hour, but I can tell you that we are in the time when the censer will be cast down and our probation will be closed. Oh, friends, today is a day of preparation for that day, and our only hope which we have right now is to cast ourselves at the feet of our Saviour Jesus Christ:

> As the sinner, drawn by the power of Christ, approaches the uplifted cross, and prostrates himself before it, there is a new creation. A new heart is given him. He becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus. Holiness finds that it has nothing more to require. *Christ's Object Lessons*, 163.

This Day of Atonement, my friends, which is going on right now, is calling you and I to repentance from our sins. Do you believe that? It is a call to us today to give up sin completely by the power that Christ provides. It is calling upon you and I to make a corporate repentance, as did Daniel, for the sins of the church—to weep between the porch and the altar for everything that is going on. Read the sealing in *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 207–216.

THE SEALING

Let me tell you, something is going on that we do not fully understand, because once the mind moves so far away from the Holy Spirit, the Spirit can no longer touch that life, and the door goes closed. And let me tell you, a shut door is nothing new to Adventist theology, because as we look at Cain who closed his door, as we look at the antediluvians that closed their door, as we begin to look at Esau who closed his door, as we begin to look at Sodom and Gomorrah who closed their doors, Ellen White tells us that the Jewish nation closed their door. We even read a statement from E. G. White where she says that those in 1844 who turned back from belief in the first and second angels' messages closed their door. Why?—Because their minds moved so far away from the truth that the Spirit of God could not touch them any more, and the door went shut, and an evil spirit then has the opportunity to take full control of that mind and convince the mind that it is the Holy Spirit now speaking. And when he does that friends, you will find that he will not allow you to speak any more the truth. See *Selected Messages*, book 1, 63. Those doing the work of Satan want

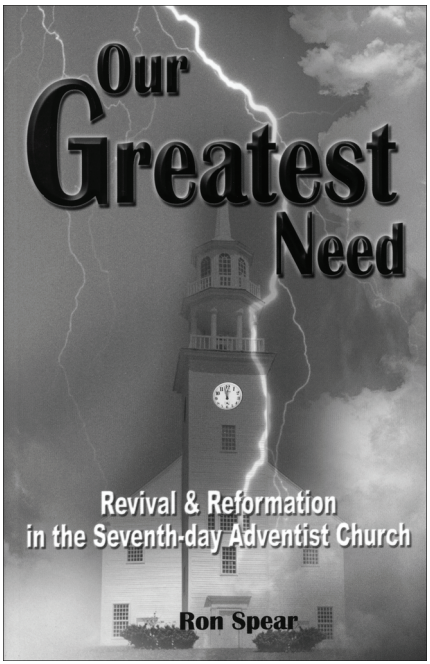
to say everything, but they will not let you say anything. They will cast you out of the synagogues—churches—and my friends, those who are faithful and loyal to God in these final moments will be an offscouring of the earth. That is what is before us.

But my friends, just as God has had faithful and loyal in every age; God has faithful and loyal today in this church—Seventh-day Adventists. He has some faithful men in leadership. He has some faithful pastors. God has a faithful people in the grassroots who are on the move now. There is "the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees."

The evidence is coming to us today that Jesus is about ready to leave the Most Holy, and just as the children of Israel approached that awesome moment in the Day of Atonement, my friends, this Seventh-day Adventist Church should approach this day with fear and trembling. We should be weeping between the porch and the altar for our own sins so that we can weep between the porch and the altar for the sins of the church, and crying as Daniel cried, but did not leave the church.

Listen friends, condemning will never bring revival and reformation. We can talk about what the brethren have done, but it won't bring revival and reformation. It is true that the Apostasy of Omega is in the church. The only thing that will bring revival my friends today, is a contrite heart that weeps between the porch and the altar for one's own sins and for the sins of the church, and prayer to God for the salvation of souls. Oh, that my confessed sins may be resting upon Satan at the end of that day is my prayer. And oh, today as I come to the close of this message, how many will say, "God purify me. Make me holy as Jesus is holy?" Oh, that we might stand in this world today, in such a beautiful relationship with God that the world will say that we have been with Jesus Christ.

Shall we pray: "Father we thank you for your blessings. We pray for your Spirit to be with us. Lord, we pray for a deeper conversion and a more full experience with Christ. Thank you Father for this message as it has been presented. Amen."



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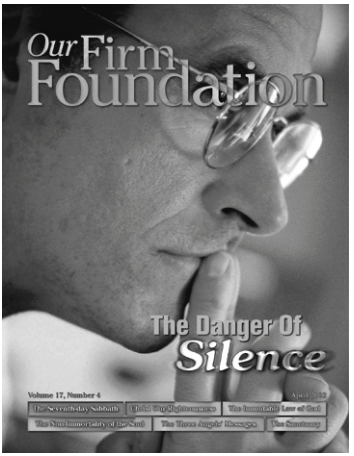

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